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CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c. 423
Leading Articles:—
The China Association's Report 424
The Russians at Tientsin 424
Great Britain and the Indemnities 425
Some Japanese Views on China 425
The Vitriol Case 425
The Sale of Tainted Food 426
The Crisis: Telegrams 426
The Need of Municipal Freedom in Hongkong 426
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce 427
The Plague 428
The "St. David" Manslaughter 428
Canton 428
Manila 428
Weihaiwei 429
Correspondence 429
Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., Limited 432
The Wanchai Warehouse and Storage Co., Ltd. 433
Supreme Court 434
Review 437
Watson's Mineral Water Factory 437
Hongkong Volunteer Corps 437
Hockey 438
Yokohama Races 438
General Gaselee 438
Russia and Japan 438
Burma's Relations with Siam 438
A Wonderful Story 438
Hongkong and Port News 439
Commercial 440
Shipping 442

BIRTH.

On the 20th May, the wife of A. VON PUSTAU, Canton, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 8th May, 1901, at Newchwang, JOHN C. MARTIN to MARIE ALEXANDRA HEUCKENDORFF.

At the British Consulate, Shanghai, on the 11th May, 1901, FREDERICK WILLIAMS-ROWLAND, I. M. Customs, Shanghai, to ELIZABETH MABEL TURNER, of Hongkong.

On the 14th May, 1901, at H.B.M. Consulate, Shanghai, afterwards at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., JAMES HECTOR WATTS, C.M.G., of Tientsin, to SALOME LOUISA, eldest daughter of OSBORNE and Salome Elizabeth MIDDLETON of Shanghai.

DEATHS.

On the 11th May, 1901, at No. 4, Amoy Road, Shanghai, CLARA BRUN, the wife of William BRUN, aged 48 years.

On the 20th May, 1901, R. M. MEHTA, aged 42 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 19th April arrived, per M. M. steamer *Natal*, on the 20th May (31 days); and the English mail of the 26th April arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Parramatta*, on the 24th May (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Conger, U.S. Minister at Peking, returns to China in July.

3,300 British troops leave China immediately. It is hoped that there will be further reductions shortly.

The Japanese papers publish disquieting news of the spread of plague in Formosa, especially at Tainan.

H. B. M. Consul at Amoy has notified the Government that bubonic plague exists at that port, several cases occurring daily.

On the 19th inst. H.M.S. *Astraea* was suddenly ordered from Shanghai to Chemulpo. No fresh news is to hand as to affairs in Corea, but details as to the proposed expedition from Weihaiwei will be found on p. 429.

It is stated that the Corean Government is very anxious to avoid payment of any damages in event of the cancellation of the French loan; but that the loan will be cancelled even if it be necessary to pay the compensation claimed.

Proclamations have been spread broadcast in Chihli, according to the native papers, exhorting the people to return to their homes and resume their ordinary avocations. Therefore they are returning in great numbers, and planting the spring crops.

The Chinese Court, according to our Shanghai correspondent, has issued an urgent Imperial Decree ordering Prince Ching and Li Hung-chang to conclude terms of peace. The famine in Shensi has rendered the stoppage of the Court at Hsianfu impossible.

The telegram appearing in our issue of the 20th inst., reporting the safe arrival of H.M.S. *Woodcock* at some port, on the Yangtsze apparently, unfortunately left it a matter of doubt what that port was, the name being mutilated. It is perhaps most probable that Chungking is meant. It will be remembered that H.M.S. *Woodcock* last April reached Suifu, 250 miles above Chungking. To reach Chinkiang would certainly be no feat.

Marquis Saionji, President of the Japanese Privy Council, and Acting Premier, was appointed Premier on the 10th inst. The resignation of Marquis Ito was at the same time accepted. The Saionji Cabinet has not been formed yet; but it understood that Count Inouye will be appointed Minister of Finance. Most of the members of the late Cabinet are expected to resume office. It is understood that Marquis Yamagata and Marquis Saigo, Count Matsugata and Count Inouye met and urged Marquis Saionji to accept the premiership.

The *Universal Gazette* states that from information received through a foreign source at Peking, the German Minister, it seems, sent a despatch recently to the Chinese Plenipotentiaries demanding the payment of 20 million taels as part of the German indemnity by the end of the 4th moon (the third week in June). Upon receipt of this money the Germans will at once withdraw from Peking. Failing payment of the amount demanded within the period given, the German forces will remain and the Chinese Government will be called upon to pay their expenses at the rate of one million taels per month.

The defences of the British Legation at Peking are reported by a Peking correspondent to have been begun. "A strong wall will be built running parallel, on the north, with Stewart Road and the south wall of the Imperial City, on the west with Gaselee Road. It will be enflanked and loopholed. Without the wall will be a clear space to come and approach. Within, the present buildings will be either utilised, where serviceable, as in the Carriage Park, or demolished if useless to make space for parade and recreation grounds."

Natives from Peking who have come down to Shanghai (says the *N.-C. Daily News*) report that it is proposed to change the name of the Chunwên gate of Peking into the "Ketteler" gate (K'ê-tê-lin-mên) after the late German Minister Baron von Ketteler, and the Drum Tower hitherto known as the Eastern Tower or "Tung P'ai-lou" in the vicinity of which the late Baron was murdered by a petty officer of Yung Lu's personal corps last June, into Memorial Arch or "Hsin-piao P'ai-fang." In this connection, according to the *Shênpao's* editor, "it is improbable that the Plenipotetiaries will consent to such a proposition."

On the 20th inst., Vicount Cranborne informed the House of Commons that the British Government desires a moderate indemnity from China, so as not to infringe commercial interests. The Government, he continued, is unalterably opposed to China raising the import duties to 10 per cent. as security for the indemnity, unless this step be accompanied by improvements such as the abolition of the *lekin* dues. The Government also opposes a joint guarantee by the Powers. Later in the week Lord Lansdowne in the House of Lords stated that the British Government had suggested that China should pay the Powers in bonds representing the indemnites, and should earmark certain sources of Chinese revenue, the yield being paid to a special receiving board for distribution among the Powers. The advantage of this arrangement, Lord Lansdowne said, is that, should China default, the Powers affected could by collectively concerted action be assured of compelling payment.

In a report on the German colonial estimates, for the year 1901, by Mr. Acton, second secretary in His Majesty's Embassy at Berlin, we learn that the estimates for Kiaochau are balanced at £552,500, being an increase on the estimates for the current year of £52,837. 10s. The State grant-in-aid is fixed at £537,500, as against £489,000 for the year 1900. A reduction of £2,500 is foreseen in the receipts from the sales of land, and an increase of £1,250 in the receipts from direct taxation. Under the head of non-recurring expenditure, the following items occur:—£5,000 for the erection of a light at Tschalientau; and £15,000 for the construction of a floating-dock, the necessity for which is stated to have been demonstrated, in the interests both of the Imperial navy and of the mercantile marine. Under the head of receipts are the following items:—Land sales, £5,000 (£7,500); direct taxes, £2,500 (£1,250); miscellaneous, £7,500 (£ ,912. 10s.); State grant, £537,500 (£489,000). The recurring expenditure includes:—Civil administration, £36,153. 2s. (£39,206. 5s.); military administration, £112,836. 2s. (£93,220. 4s.); joint expenditure of civil and military administration, £70,1 15s. (£66,307. 80. 16s.).

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION'S REPORT.

(*Daily Press*, 20th May.)

The report of the China Association for 1900-1901, one item of which we have already noticed, is a long and interesting document. As we are unable to reproduce it in full, we propose to draw attention to some of the salient points brought forward. The opening remarks, dealing with the forecasts of previous years and the actual events of 1900, need not detain us. It is generally that the Association's claim to have recognised from the first the dangerous consequences to be expected from the Dowager Empress's usurpation is well founded; and it is hardly a matter of doubt that the statement can be substantiated that the events of 1900 were a natural consequence of the *coup d'état* of 1898, though there were of course other contributing causes.

In a general review of events in 1900 the Report calls attention to a notable feature in the conclusive influence exerted by the great Provincial officials and goes on to say: "It was upon the Viceroyalties of "Two Kiang and the Two Hu that the wave "of the Reactionary movement broke; it is "with them that lies the best hope of "Reform. It follows as a corollary that "very much, still, depends upon the purpose "of the 'Ministry' in power; for the "Provincial officials derive their appoint-"ment from Peking, and it is upon the "character of the selection made that the "tone of each Government will indirectly "depend; while nothing is more reasonably "certain than that the return of the Empress "and her faction would mean the execution "of vengeance on the Viceroys and "Governors who refused to join in the "anti-foreign campaign."

The Report there goes on to consider the question of the Emperor's return to Peking, and the suggestion of a regency by his brother until His Majesty returns. The latter suggestion is dismissed on account of the doubt as to the Viceroys' adhesion and the difficulty of obtaining the consent of the Powers to so drastic a measure. The desirability of excluding the present heir apparent, PU CHUN, from the succession is recognised, and the Report adds: "The adoption need "not necessarily be disturbed (although "disinheritance is permissible, by Chinese "custom, for cause shown): the case would "be met by the adoption of a son to KWANG "HSU who should be recognised as his "heir, and who should be placed amid "surroundings differing from those which "cannot fail to influence a son of Prince "TUAN. For the one conclusion which "stands out clearly is that no member of "the faction which brought about the present "crisis should be allowed to remain in "power." Common sense urges the truth of this last remark, but we fear that it looks very doubtful whether such a clean sweep of the Reactionaries can now be made. There has been too much hesitation on the part of the Powers, and the situation has not developed in such a way as to strengthen their hands.

The next point of importance touched upon is the question of our interests and representation in the Far East. The Report says:— "Frequent occasion has been taken, also to "urge the appointment of a special mission, "with a diplomatist of the highest rank "and influence as its chief, for the purpose "of safe-guarding the preponderant interests "which Great Britain still retains in the "East. The Foreign trade of China "amounted, in 1899—the last year for "which statistics are available—to Hk. Tls. "460,000,000 (say £66,000,000), and em-"ployed 11,000,000 tons of shipping, besides "coasting craft. The share of the British "Empire in that trade reached Hk. Tls. "286,000,000 (say £40,000,000) and the "British flag was represented by 6,700,000 "tons—showing a preponderant interest, in "both respects, not only over any other "single nation, but over all the rest com-"bined. It was strongly felt by members "of the Association, both in England and "the East, that these great interests re-"quired special safeguarding; and that the "occasion called for the appointment of a "diplomatist of the highest rank and "reputation. Semi-official representations "to that effect were made to the Foreign "Office, directly the proposed interchange "of posts between Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD "and Sir ERNEST SATOW became known; "and a formal letter was addressed to Lord "SALISBURY, in August, when it appeared "that these representations had failed of "effect. Copies of the correspondence and "of telegrams from Shanghai and Hong-"kong were communicated also to the "principal Chambers of Commerce, with "the result that the Halifax, Liverpool, "London, and Manchester Chambers ad-"dressed the Office, strongly supporting the "views of the Association; while others ex-"pressed a sympathetic conviction that "H.M. Government might be trusted to "take a step which the occasion so clearly "required. That impression has not, un-"happily, been justified; and the Committee "feel constrained to repeat the expression "of their regret that representations which "were felt to be of moment were ignored."

The relations of the Association with the new China League are next discussed; but this is a matter which is already familiar to our readers. The American Asiatic Association's identity of opinion on the vital points of the situation, as stated in the Report, is gratifying to note.

On Manchuria not much is said, though the important documents connected with the matter are to be found among the appendices. The definite abandonment by Russia of the Convention was subsequent to the writing of the Report, which is dated the 31st March.

Turning to the section, "Treaty Revision," we find the Report speaking as follows:— "It is anticipated that the acquiescence "of the Chinese Government in the terms "imposed as preliminary conditions of peace "will be followed by negotiations for a re-"vision of the present Treaties and for "certain measures of fiscal and adminis-"trative reforms. The necessity for these "reforms, and the expediency of Tariff "revision, have been discussed in correspon-"dence between the Eastern branches, the "General Committee, and the Foreign "Office, at various periods during the last "six years; and the suggestions therein "made will, it is believed, furnish the bases "of practicable arrangements. The question "of fiscal reform is indeed, scarcely, separ-"able from that of the indemnity; and a "recent telegram from Shanghai expresses "apprehension lest a proposal be made to "guarantee an Indemnity Loan by some "such process of drastic Tariff increase as "was advocated by LI HUNG-CHANG. The "Association recognised, in its letter to Lord "SALISBURY dated 2nd November, 1896, that "an increased tariff was admissible under "certain conditions; but any hasty action "would destroy the only available lever for "obtaining redress of existing grievances "besides possibly endangering trade expan-"sion. Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON's well-known "Report on the Revenue and Expenditure "of the Chinese Empire showed that the "existing taxes are capable of yielding a "sufficient income if honestly administered, "and the opportunity should be taken to "insist on improved methods of collection "and account; commercial questions being "reserved for settlement, later, by the lead-"ing commercial Powers. The conviction "was expressed in 1896, and cannot be too "strongly reaffirmed, that 'nothing would "more conduce to the stability of the "Chinese Government, the increase of its "revenue, and the welfare of the people, "than the improvement of inland com-"munication of all kinds and the relief of "inland commerce from taxation upon its "movement. It must be reaffirmed also, "that no reform of the kind can be effective "that does not provide for the requirements "of the Provincial Exchequers."

We leave one or two minor points in the Report for future consideration.

THE RUSSIANS AT TIENTSIN.

(*Daily Press*, 21st May.)

Among the points which we have not noticed already in the Report of the China Association is the section dealing with the Russian claim to a Concession at Tientsin. As this question still remains unsettled, it is worth while to quote a few pertinent sentences from the Report. Pointing out that Russia has made her claim to a Concession on the north bank of the Peiho, based at first on "right of conquest," more plausible by production of an agreement signed by LI HUNG-CHANG the Report alludes to the disfavour with which the claim is viewed at Tientsin on other grounds. "No objection," it continues, "would be offered or felt to the "Russians marking out a Settlement in line "with the others. The objection is to their "location on the opposite bank. The erec-"tion of wharves or landing-stages opposite "the British Bund would, it is alleged, so "narrow the fairway as to block the river. "Parts of the foreshore are already in the "possession of British firms, which fear to "find themselves hampered in various ways; "and control of access to the railway station "would be practically in Russian hands. "Russian trade at Tientsin is too small to "afford any justification for the occupation "of an area exceeding that of all the other "Foreign Concessions put together—an "area, moreover, which owes its value chiefly "to the commerce which has been built up "by others on the opposite bank."

The general question of the Russian Concession at Tientsin seems to have been decided in a practical way by the rush of other Powers for concessions and expansions of previous areas. It seems reasonable to expect, however, that some arrangement will be made as to the fairway of the Peiho, for it is obviously detrimental to the interests of all that this should be further blocked. As to the outcome of the dispute between the railway authorities and the Russians over the strip of land on which the former endeavoured to construct a siding, no well authenticated news is to hand indicating a speedy settlement by Count VON WALDERSEE. The *New Press* of Shanghai, indeed, publishes a telegram professing to give the decision arrived at. It is dated London, 13th May, and states that the decision has been given and that it has been held that Russia is entitled to have a Concession at Tientsin, and that, pending the settlement of her claim to the particular piece of land on which the dispute arose, the British ought not to attempt any such decisive action as they did. It is therefore ruled, continues the telegram, that an apology is due from the British to

the Russians for having made a display of armed force when the Russians stopped the railway work from proceeding. The British, moreover, are stated to have apologised for the act in question, while the main question, as to the possession of the land and the right of access and of railway facilities, is not yet settled. There has been absolutely no confirmation of this story as yet, and it is safer therefore to attach no undue weight to it. It reads very like a journalistic forecast based on a study of the past.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE INDEMNITIES.

(*Daily Press*, 24th May.)

Lord LANSDOWNE'S statement in the House of Lords this week made public the suggestion to the Powers of the British Government as to the raising by China of the indemnities demanded from her. Following on Viscount CRANBORNE'S statement in the House of Commons last week as to the unwillingness of the Government to sanction an increase of the Tariff, unless this were accompanied by the abolition of the *lekin* dues, we have at last an important declaration of policy. To commence with, Great Britain is in favour of a reduction of the huge indemnity demanded by the Powers. The demand has been swollen to its exorbitant proportions by claims of France, Germany, and Russia, and there is perhaps little chance of these Powers reducing their demands, though what special title they have to exacting the uttermost farthing from China is not obvious. If it may be presumed that the sum demanded cannot be reduced, in spite of the desire of three nations at least, Britain, the United States, and Japan, there only remains the method of collection to be settled. China, as we have seen, proposed to pay 450,000,000 taels in thirty annual instalments, 10,000,000 taels to come from the Salt Revenue, 2,000,000 from the native Customs, and another 2,000,000 from *lekin* dues. Certain of the Powers are in favour of a loan jointly guaranteed by the nations interested. The British Government opposes the latter proposal, and suggests as an alternative that certain sources of Chinese revenue, not yet specified apparently, shall be earmarked and bonds issued to the amount required for payment of the indemnities. A receiving Board would be constituted to collect these revenues and to pay them over to the creditor Powers. The advantage of this plan, it is contended, is that if China should default, the Powers affected can concert together and compel China to pay. Thus no Powers will be unduly favoured to the exclusion of others. It is hardly possible to pronounce definitely on this plan, until we know how the money required is to be raised—what sources of revenue, in fact, are to be earmarked. In itself, the constitution of a Board to collect the money and distribute it again to China's creditors secures fair treatment for all concerned if the original demands are fair. But this of course is not yet guaranteed; on the contrary, some Powers are claiming very much beyond their fair shares. Some adjustment of claims should precede the adoption of the British proposal, if it is to be adopted. This point is precisely the one on which we have heard nothing whatever of a trustworthy nature. It is impossible therefore as yet to feel that we are yet within easy distance of a real and lasting settlement.

Marquis Ito, the Japanese statesman, is confined to his room at Oiso, and is reported to have had a fainting fit on the 7th inst.

SOME JAPANESE VIEWS ON CHINA.

(*Daily Press*, 23rd May.)

In the second number of the new Japanese fortnightly magazine *The Toyo*, which is partly bi-lingual—in the sense that the principle articles are either translated into English or summarised—occur two interesting contributions to the study of the Far Eastern question. The magazine, as we stated in noticing its first appearance, is the organ of Prince KONOYE, and the opinions expressed therein call therefore for some attention. The first article in the number before is certainly a rather remarkable production. Entitled "Pride and Prejudice," it commences with a defence of Japan alike from her enemies and her injudicious friends (not the less dangerous class of the two), and ends with an impassioned appeal to England and America to stand by "the Anglo-Saxons on the Orient" in their struggle for the right, that is, against the aggressions on China of France, Germany, and Russia. The language of the article, it must be confessed, is high-flown, even hysterical—we speak solely of the English version. Nevertheless, the conclusions arrived at are in the main just. The protest against "the imposition of an impossible indemnity on beggared China" is one which will be endorsed by Britain, for the last declaration of Government opinion, as formulated by Lord CRANBORNE, expresses the desire for a moderate indemnity which will not infringe commercial interests; and most certainly it will be approved in the United States, who have all through been opposed to a heavy indemnity. There is, however, no sign on the part of France, Germany, and Russia that they are likely to forego their "pound of flesh," as the Japanese writer calls it. He proceeds, with considerable violence of language, to warn the "tripartite harpies" not to exhaust the patience of Japan, and then concludes by invoking Britain and the United States to stand on the side of justice.

The other article is an essay by Count OKUMA on "The Middle Kingdom," and, being signed, is far more soberly written. Its theme is the necessity for the continued independence of China. The writer concludes by saying: "What shall we, then, "do with China? Restore the Emperor's "sovereignty and see him seated firmly "on the Dragon Throne. Abolish the "present system of competitive examina-"tions, and see that a good system of "education is introduced and enforced. "Import the benefits of Western civilisation. "Reform the army and police-system. "Build up a strong government, that peace "may be insured within the borders of the "Empire. And stop all attempts at a "partition of Chinese soil, which can only "disturb the peace of the Orient and "render abortive all hope of tradal profit." "And," says Count OKUMA, "if any nation "attempts to size Chinese territory, we "Japanese will not be slow in taking steps "to render all such attempts a failure." It may be said that these remarks savour too much of the Jingo spirit. But it cannot well be doubted that to a great extent they voice a deep feeling in Japan, and that, moreover, the policy which they uphold is that which meets with the approbation of nearly all Britons and Americans commercially interested in China. How far the dream of uniting Great Britain, the United States and Japan in a league pledged to uphold, by more than mere words, the integrity of China, is capable of realisation, we cannot venture to say. But it is certain that the present situation can only be developed in the direction desired by Great Britain by the assistance of the other Powers with the same wishes at heart.

THE VITRIOL CASE.

(*Daily Press*, 22nd May.)

It cannot be contended that the result of the enquiry into the vitriol-throwing outrage, the last act of which apparently was concluded on Monday at the Criminal Sessions, is of a satisfactory nature. A great amount of public interest has been aroused over the case, as is but natural. A crime which the Chief Justice on Monday described as a dastardly offence, meriting the fullest punishment, was committed by two Chinese employees in His Majesty's Naval Yard against an Englishman, the chief storekeeper in the Yard. Corrosive fluid was by these men thrown on Mr. REEK in a public thoroughfare, thereby disfiguring him for life, and seriously endangering his eyesight, though this catastrophe has happily been averted. For this abominable outrage the two miscreants have received no more than three years' imprisonment each with hard labour. It is instructive to notice that at the same Sessions and on the same day, the 18th ult., on which they received their sentence, two Chinamen were sentenced to five years' imprisonment with hard labour for robbing a woman of two silver bangles! We are aware, of course, of the traditional relative values of property and person, against which *Truth* has been carrying on a crusade for many years. But the present case is of a different nature. It is obvious, we think, to those who read the account of the trial of YEUNG KUN and Lo TSOI last month that the astonishing lightness of their sentences—for the maximum penalty is imprisonment for life—was to a large degree the result of the impression that they were agents of some one else. The prosecution fixed on Mr. GEORGE ALLEN, storehouseman in the Yard, as having procured Lo TSOI, through the agency of YEUNG KUN, to throw the corrosive fluid on Mr. REEK. The result of the case at the Criminal Sessions was the acquittal of Mr. ALLEN, and the two Chinese remain the only known offenders.

The upshot of the whole affair therefore appears to be that for a dastardly offence on an English official, two Chinamen are to get off with a mild sentence of three years' imprisonment. They must indeed be congratulating themselves that they did not recklessly break in through a back-window in Mr. REEK's house and steal a teaspoon. As far as can be seen, the whole incident is now closed, and no attempt will be made to sift the matter any further. In this event, there is nothing to be said beyond that a dastardly outrage has been committed at a ridiculously cheap price. One point, however, shows up very prominently throughout the case. It appears to the ordinary mind incomprehensible that no higher officials in the Naval Yard were called upon to give evidence. It seems to have been cheerfully accepted as a fact that Mr. REEK was in supreme command of all matters connected with stores. Was this the case? We should be very surprised to learn so. Surely there are in the Naval Yard men in higher posts whose evidence was at least worth hearing. Yet neither prosecution nor defence thought fit to call upon them. We confess that we cannot understand it.

THE SALE OF TAINTED FOOD.

(*Daily Press*, 22nd May.)

It is gratifying to note that such remarks as we have had occasion to make during the past week on the subject of the sale in the Colony of unwholesome and tainted condensed milk, tinned butter and other commodities, have not been without their effect. As we stated on the 15th instant, the Sanitary Board had already made a heavy seizure of condensed milk unfit for human consumption—or for any other purpose that we know of. Some of this, as we pointed out then, was sold to ice-cream vendors at the modest price of two or three cents a tin. For some unknown reason, however, the Sanitary Board was reluctant to prosecute, and a grave menace to the health of the poorer inhabitants of the Colony appeared likely to be neglected by those whose duty it is to look after such affairs. We therefore put some of the facts before our readers. Since then the Sanitary authorities have taken the steps which they ought to have taken long before. The prosecution of one of the vendors of these tainted goods at the Police Court on Monday ended in the imposition of the full penalty of $100, and the destruction of the rotten goods offered for sale. Another prosecution was instituted yesterday. We trust that these two prosecutions will be followed by others, unless the unscrupulous vendors of their own accord destroy the offending articles.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 19th May, 7.38 p.m.

Designing to nullify one of the Allies' demands, the Reactionaries at Hsianfu are urging the Empress Dowager to issue a decree in the Emperor's name, stopping the examinations everywhere for five years.

SHANGHAI, 21st May, 7.58 p.m.

The Court has issued an urgent Imperial Decree ordering Prince Ching and Li Hung-chang to conclude terms of peace.

The famine in Shensi has rendered the stoppage of the Court at Hsianfu impossible.

THE NEED OF MUNICIPAL FREEDOM IN HONGKONG.

II.

IMMEDIATE REFORM OF THE SANITARY SYSTEM IMPERATIVE.

THE DESIRABILITY OF A MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

The correspondence which has appeared in the local Press on the first article on this important subject is ample evidence that the evils pointed out are well known to the community, if unapparent to the local Government, and the vigour of that correspondence tends to shake the charge of apathy preferred against the residents generally. The discussion that is also going on verbally amongst the community, on the whole, substantiates the statements made in the first article as to the grievances the public are labouring under. It is well the Government should know this, because if it is unable to realise the grievances it will be equally unable to recognise the bitter feelings of the residents who are compelled to submit to them. The *Hongkong Daily Press* and the *China Mail* have comprehensively dealt with the first article, and while they are unable to endorse the whole of the statements, or rather opinions, they acknowledge the charges generally to be correct and without exaggeration. It is for the Government to accept this unanimity of public opinion and profit by it. The two newspapers mentioned raised certain points concerning the possibility of Municipal government, which it is more convenient to discuss at the end of this article, as there are certain other grievances and abuses which need comment before closing the case of Hongkong's misgovernment.

It may be as well to refer again to the absolute farce of our present sanitary system. It would be more appropriate to call it a scandal, for its results are too grave for it to be termed a farce. Within the last two weeks, the community has been startled by the occurrence of several cases of plague amongst Europeans, four having succumbed to it. The daily medical returns show that the epidemic is increasing in its ravages instead of diminishing, and residents are confronted with the fact that the practical immunity which the Europeans appeared to possess from plague is passing away, and they seem almost as liable to contract this vile disease as the filthiest. It may be argued that to mention this fact is unwise and can serve no useful purpose, but, on the contrary, if Europeans through fear of their own safety will rise up and insist on the whole of the wretched sanitary system of the Colony being remodelled and reformed, such action will have very valuable and gratifying results. Events of the last two weeks have proved it possible for any European resident to contract plague. That being so it is criminal to sit idle without being convinced that everything which modern medical science can suggest is being acted upon in this Colony to-day, *now*, to render the place clean, healthy and free from disease.

Is there anyone in this Colony who can allege that such is being done now, or is even being contemplated by the present Government?

Modern medical science demands that for a city to be healthy it must be kept thoroughly clean and in a perfect sanitary condition. This is accomplished by an appropriate and an effective system of drainage, with a plentiful use of water and disinfectants—Hongkong is surrounded with water, and we suffer from want of it; by the prevention of overcrowding and the introduction of open spaces—lungs—in populous centres; by house-to-house visitation by competent inspectors trained in sanitary knowledge, who are attached to a large fairly-paid staff, whose business it is to check abuses, remedy evils, and see that the requirements of modern sanitary science are fulfilled and not evaded by the dirty, the careless and the ignorant. The people themselves should receive every inducement to be clean. The system of sanitation should be suited to the people and the town, and be under the direct control of competent medical officers, qualified in sanitary science. If it is necessary to have 900 policemen in the Colony to look after the morals of the community, it is of greater importance to have an adequate staff of sanitary policemen to look after the sanitation of the Colony.

Can anyone state that such is the case in Hongkong to-day? Can anyone expect the sanitation of the Colony to be adequately policed and controlled by a staff of one medical officer, a sanitary surveyor and twenty inspectors of nuisances? Is not this in the light of present disease-returns a scandal of a malignant type? To support my position, it will surprise many, perhaps the Government itself, to learn that it now takes an inspector of nuisances *two months* to go thoroughly over his health district—a duty which should be done daily! The salary of a European inspector, with house allowance, amounts to $105 a month. With this state of things transpiring, with Europeans and Chinese succumbing in numbers daily to infectious disease, with every possibility and probability of the epidemic increasing, our Government remains smug and inactive, dozing over the platitudes recited by the official members of the Sanitary Board, to be temporarily aroused when such members forget their official clothes in spasmodic bursts of commonsense and human nature. Dr. Bell thinks it unnecessary to examine any passengers from Canton or Macao: Dr. Bell does not object to plague corpses being carried in a box through busy thoroughfares: Dr. Bell, who is no doubt an eminent sanitary authority, says so and that is sufficient. There is obviously no superior opinion. What possibilities exist in Hongkong for an official with the courage of his convictions! A few years ago when plague was raging in Hongkong through exactly the same causes as prevail to-day, numerous Europeans bravely risked their lives in undertaking most undesirable duties. Several were sacrificed. They did so thinking that once and for all the Government would leave nothing undone to prevent a possible recurrence of plague. Let us congratulate the Government and ourselves on the result. It is before us—700 *reported* cases from January to May and eleven European cases in the last three weeks.

Another important matter concerning the health of the community is that of the sale of articles unfit for human consumption. I think I am correct in stating that the authorities (it is difficult to locate them in this case) were incensed because the *Hongkong Daily Press* reported on the seizure of rotten tinned milk, which was being retailed at a few cents a tin. The Sanitary Board declined at first to prosecute because they thought that came within the duties of the Police. The Police declined because they believed the reverse. Whilst this somewhat too technical wrangle was proceeding the retailers of the poisonous concoction were likely to get off free. The point has since been settled, possibly through fear of further newspaper comment, or perhaps through obtaining the opinion of a legal luminary as to the respective responsibilities of the two bodies. During the last week I have made a few purchases on Queen's Road. I selected that as being the most important business thoroughfare. The results of my visitation are not favourable to that authority which supervises the sale of provisions, for presumably whilst the Sanitary Board and the Police are debating the point, some sort of authority exists. I obtained a one-pound tin of butter for ten cents! "Made in Normandy" the label on the tin said. I learned indirectly from the Medical Officer of Health that shopkeepers could not be prosecuted for selling that "Normandy" butter because "It might be used for lubricative purposes." I have passed a number of years in the East, always with Chinese machinists around me, but I never saw any use butter, not even "Normandy" at ten cents a pound, for such purposes. I have known my house-servants lubricate their throttles with my 80 cents a pound tin of butter. Considering that the purchaser is liable to be misled by the inscription on the 10 cent tin of butter, it might be as well to have it labelled with the chemist's familiar red-letter injunction—"Poison—Not to be Taken Internally." Since then I obtained a tin containing one pint of "Sterilized Pure Natural Cow's Milk, Made in Norway," with precautions (very essential I should imagine) to be observed in opening. This tin is rusty with age, and the legend on it describes it as "a luxury with all kinds of stewed fruit, and excellent for making ice-cream." This cost me 8½ cents. I respectfully submit to the C.M.O., that this was not sold as a lubricant! Then again I obtained for 5 cents a half-pound tin of "Potted Ham," "Made in the Argentine Republic." I also submit this was not retailed as a lubricant unless it was to enable the consumer to glide with ease from this world to the next. These with others made up my purchases. Unless the authority responsible for the supervision of the sale of such edibles cares to open and inspect the same at a selected secluded spot, I intend to bury them. No doubt, as in the case of Jerome K. Jerome's cheese, and the carcase burying-ground at Kennedy Town (which is adjacent to the new Police Station) the vicinity of the interment may earn a reputation in time as a promising health resort.

It will be admitted that the operation of the Sales of Food and Drugs Ordinance comes within the scope of Municipal control, and no Municipal Council would allow its town to be made a mart for the sale of provisions unfit for human consumption. The officials who now run the apology for Municipal government may disagree on this theory, but the public will prefer to accept it as being a fact.*

Reverting again to the evil of overcrowding, which prevails here to a greater extent than in any other civilised city in the world, the report of the Medical Officer of Health at the last meeting of the Sanitary Board is conclusive proof, if any were needed, of the lamentable

* Since the above was written, the Sanitary Board has prosecuted—somewhat reluctantly, I believe.

result of this state of things. The large number of deaths from phthisis caused Dr. Clark to state that "phthisis was intimately associated with overcrowding, and insanitary conditions had been established beyond any possibility of doubt, and the mortality figures of the Colony bore out the statement." Places which have been condemned over and over again as being totally unfit for human habitation have been occupied under the nose of the Police, who, when appealed to, said it was not their business. It has also been reported by the Health Officers that the surface crowding in Hongkong is worse than in any city in the world! Yet what steps, if any, are being taken by the Government to alleviate this evil? Under the amended Ordinance only a certain number of Chinese are permitted to live in a certain area, but what provision was made for the tenants whose eviction followed as a result of the introduction of that Ordinance?

In the matter of Jinrickishas, the Colony of Hongkong is worse served than any other city in the East. The vehicles are crudely constructed, generally dirty, and are not to be compared to the public rickishas in use at Singapore or in the ports of Japan. The conduct of the pullers on the whole is abominable, and their behavi ur would not be tolerated anywhere else in the East. Under the existing state of affairs the public rickisha-coolie is a master of the situation, and for impudence he is unrivalled. If he wishes to take up a fare he will do so, and if he does not wish to work, then he calmly sits down or passes on, to the helpless indignation of the person desirous of engaging him. To a limited extent this, of course, exists elsewhere, but not to the scandalous extent as in Hongkong. The coolies simp y do as they please, and do not stand in fear of any authority over them. Only a few days ago we had the amusing spectacle of the Deputy Superintendent of Police prosecuting a rickisha-coolie who refused to carry him! Try and imagine this in Shanghai, Singapore or Japan. The coolies appear to have but one ambition, namely to secure as fares intoxicated sailors, so that they can fleece them to their heart's content. The only existing remedy a resident has against a coolie who refuses to carry him, is to prosecute him in the Police Court, and lose half a day in doing so, for the satisfaction of seeing the coolie fined a few dollars, which is promptly paid by the coolie guild. In Singapore they do things better. There are more public rickishas than here, they are all double rickishas seating two persons, and fares are cheaper. The vehicles are generally in good condition, and are infinitely better furnished than the rickishas here. The rickisha and gharry traffic is under the immediate control of the Municipal Commission, not the Police, and in various parts of the town are stations where reports of incivility or refusal of hire can be made. At numerous points are stationed peons or traffic inspectors, whose duty it is to regulate the traffic and check any impertinence on the part of the coolies or drivers. Reports made at the stations are dealt with, and for minor offences, after investigation, the coolies are punished without the resident spending hours in a police court. That system has existed for years in Singapore, and yet in Hongkong an intolerable want of system continues to prevail.

Another grievance, and a very important one, which may be touched upon, is that of the educational system in the Colony. It satisfies neither the Europeans nor the Chinese? There are over seventy schools in the Colony, and in none of these can a European lad receive an education separate from the Chinese pupils. For domestic and social reasons, European colonists do not care to send their children to the principal Government Schools, and even the leading Chinese prefer to have their children privately educated. It is impossible to believe that the European lad is as well taught and disciplined in the leading schools here as he would be at home. Although the Chinese have the option of sending their children to seventy schools, they for some reason or other are about to spend a large sum of money, voluntarily subscribed, for establishing new schools. Queen's College, the most important scholastic institution, is practically at present a primary school. Many of its students are Chinese subjects from Chinese territory; the last report on it from the examiners would have a very damaging effect on any private school at home. The question of the schools in the Colony is one which has been discussed for many years past, and it may suffice to state that the Governor has before him now a petition of residents with regard to the necessity of establishing schools for European children. Such a petition is bound to have His Excellency's sympathy, and, it is to be hoped, his support.

If I may be permitted to institute another comparison between Hongkong and Singapore, I would like to contrast the public official buildings in that Colony and this. Take our wretched miserable dismal den here which passes for a police-court and compare it with the large and stately block of buildings in Singapore, the Police Courts and Police Headquarters. The Supreme Court here is scarcely to be compared to some decent auction-rooms in the East, and that is where the Chief Justice represents the dignity of the law. I have seen a fourth-rate Chinese yamen with a better "court" room. Singapore is much better provided for. Look at our Post Office, admire its labyrinthine interior arrangements and its architectural beauty, and compare it if you can with the smart Post Office in the southern Colony, where provision is made for nationalities, and a European lady is not compelled to rub shoulders with a Chinese coolie. In public buildings, Hongkong, without any apparent reason, is behind any colony of equal importance in the world. How long it will remain so is a problem more difficult than any in the books of Euclid.

In concluding, one cause of the many grievances the Colony is suffering from appears to me to be inadequate staffs. Has any Government department a staff sufficient to cope with the work before it? Take that colossal grievance, the Post Office, with its $80,000 worth of profits annually, with its inadequate staff; or the Sanitary Department, with its one doctor and twenty inspectors to visit thousands of houses and look after the public health of 300,000 people. The Public Works Departments likewise suffers from the same complaint. The *Daily Press* rightly stated in its editorial "We do not get sufficient done for our money. We are afflicted with too much red tape. We are restricted by parsimony, and yet sometimes suffer from waste." Therefore a change from the existing system is not only desirable but imperative.

The *Daily Press* and the *China Mail* chiefly discussed the suggestion of the introduction of a Municipal body to control local affairs. They are both of opinion that it would be difficult to run a Municipal Council in this apathetic community. Men capable of acting as Municipal Councillors would not care to give their time; their business calls are too imperative. Well, if they have a Municipal Council in the most business-like place in the Far East—Shanghai—or a Commission in tropical Singapore, there should be no real obtacles to the formation of one here, as far as the Ratepayers are concerned. It does not take many men to constitute a Council; it is not a question of numbers; it is a question of powers, of freedom of action, of control, and of expenditure. Public-spirited residents do not decline to serve on the Sanitary Board on account of pressure of business; they decline to serve because their labour is rendered useless through official opposition, and the persistent ignoring of their advice by officials whose duty it should be to consider it. There is plenty of energy and public spirit in Hongkong, but no business man has any time to throw away for the amusement of the Government. If it is a question of public weal, and the community can be assured that the Government will concern itself with its own functions and leave municipal affairs to the community for administration, I am optimistic enough to think that proper and fit men will come forward. The grievance we all find in the official attitude, is that it pronounces its own judgment, ignores suggestions by men who know what they are discussing, and tells the community that if it does not like it then it can do the other thing. Public officials here, as elsewhere, are the servants of the public, and they should remember that fact. Many will agree with the *China Mail* that the Legislative Council does not represent public opinion. It is a Council peculiar to Hongkong, and suffers from want of independence and want of energy. There is too much of the convenient policy, "If you scratch my back, I will scratch yours," in the attitude of the Unofficial members towards the Official members. But a Municipal Body is independent of the Legislative Body, and does far more practical parochial work. It is well to note that the Shanghai Municipal Council consists of nine members, and the Singapore Municipal Commission of ten members. The Singapore system would be the system to introduce here, because the President is a paid "unofficial," whose position and functions are to a certain extent synonimous to those of a mayor at home. He is assisted by a qualified secretary and an assistant secretary (Europeans), and the Municipal Council has its independent engineering, medical and sanitary staffs. There is no reason whatever why the system prevailing in Singapore should not be tried here. The present system here needs immediate change, and reform from top to bottom: How that change can be best brought about is a matter for the Ratepayers to decide. It is useless to expect the Government to undertake the reform of abuses and evils that have been existing for years. It suffers from want of energy far more than the Ratepayers do. As a member of the China Association, I am inclined to the view that at this Association should at once take the matter in hand. It might be more useful to form a Ratepayers' Association to agitate for such reform—call a public meeting, and wire to the Colonial Office and newspapers a series of resolutions condemning the existing system (or want of one), and soliciting an enquiry. But let us have something attempted, something done.

SCRUTATOR.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at the Chamber Room, City Hall, on the 16th May, 1901, at noon,—Present: Sir Thomas Jackson (Chairman), Mr. C. S. Sharp (Vice-Chairman), Messrs. A. Haupt, Hon. J. J. Keswick, W. Poate, R. L. Richardson, N. A. Siebs, H. E. Tomkins, Hon. J. Thurburn (*ex officio*), and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last monthly meeting (held 17th April) and of the special meeting held on the 27th idem were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBER.

The Secretary reported that the Hamburg-Amerika Linie had been admitted to membership of the Chamber since the last meeting.

THE CHINESE TARIFF AND THE WAR INDEMNITIES.

Read letter from the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, dated 6th May, enclosing copy of a telegram addressed by that body to the Chambers of Commerce at London, Paris, Berlin and New York, protesting against hasty treatment of the tariff question as destroying the only leverage for obtaining redress of anti-treaty grievances and as threatening trade expansion.

Decided, when replying, to reciprocate by forwarding copy of this Chamber's telegram of the 3rd inst. to the London Chamber of Commerce.

The Chairman, referring to this question, said it was clear from Lord Cranborne's statement, as telegraphed by Reuter (which he read), that the British Government appreciated the position, and that it was very satisfactory to find them holding out for the very conditions mentioned in the Chamber's telegram recently despatched to London. It was interesting to note, in this connection, that the *N.-C. Daily News'* correspondent at Peking had telegraphed on the 7th inst.:—

"The Foreign Ministers to-day agreed to inform the Chinese Plenipotentiaries of the indemnities to be asked for. They also agreed to stipulate for the abolition of *lekin*, the establishment of tariff on a gold basis, the free navigation of the inland waters of China, and the removal of the obstacles presented by the Bars

at Woosung and Taku. They are not agreed as to the opening of the whole of China freely to foreign trade; Sir Ernest Satow objects to this as long as extra-territoriality obtains."

Placing the tariff on a gold basis would practically mean doubling it. At present the Chinese Government justly complain that they are losing heavily owing to the fall in exchange. Probably this is the reason the British Government object to any other increase in the tariff, which might have the effect of rendering it almost prohibitive in some directions. He thought the majority of the Foreign Ministers intended to hold this tariff question *in terrorem* over the heads of the Chinese Government until outstanding commercial grievances were finally adjusted.

THE REGULATION OF SAILING CRAFT IN HONGKONG H RBOUR.

Read letter from Colonial secretary, dated 18th April, announcing that the Government were in communication with the Government of the Straits Settlements, presumably as to the rules adopted in Singapore for the regulation of sailing craft in that harbour.

The Secretary said that no further letter had been received since.

The Chairman said that all they could do now was to await the result of the Government's reference to Singapore.

MANILA DECLARED AN INFECTED PORT.

A letter having been received from the Government on the 25th April announcing that Manila had been proclaimed by the Governor in Council to be an infected port, information of the fact was at once supplied to the local Press.

Some conversation ensued on an enquiry by the chairman as to what information this step had been grounded on.

THE PIRACY OF REUTER'S POLITICAL TELEGRAMS.

Read letter from the manager of the *N.-C. Herald*, Shanghai, dated 1st May, calling attention to the fact that piracy of the telegrams in this Colony—viz, their despatch by wire to Shanghai as soon as printed—and enclosing copy of an extract from the opinion of Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C., in which various steps were suggested, and asking if the Chamber, through its representative in the Legislative Council, would kindly introduce some amendment to the Ordinance (No. 14 of 1894) specially framed for the protection of these messages.

After some discussion, it was decided to take steps to discover the offender with a view to his prosecution.

This was all the business of public interest.

THE PLAGUE.

During the 48 hours ending at noon on the 20th inst. there were reported 44 fresh cases of plague (40 Chinese, 2 other Asiatics, 2 Europeans) and 48 deaths (46 Chinese, 2 other Asiatics).

The two additional European cases reported since the 18th inst. are those of Mr. and Mrs. Gonzales, who were removed from their home at 6, Beaconsfield Arcade on the 19th inst. The husband has since died, we regret to learn (though his death is not included in the mortality returns issued on the 26th inst.). The deceased, Mr. Jesus Gonzales, was Chancellor at the Spanish and Peruvian Consulates. He was 35 years of age.

We learnt on enquiry at the Sanitary Board office on the 20th inst. that the other European patients in Hospital were all getting on well.

We regret to state that Mr. R. M. Mehta succumbed to the disease at Kennedytown Hospital at 3 a.m. on the 20th inst. He was buried at the Parsee Cemetery on the 20th inst. Deceased had been some 20 years in the Colony, and was younger brother of a barrister well known at Bombay, Mr. Pirozsha Mehta.

During the 24 hours ending at noon on the 22nd, there were reported 28 fresh cases of plague (27 Chinese, one European), and 24 deaths (all Chinese).

The one European case recorded is that of Mr. R. A. Collins, proprietor of the Dragon Cycle Depot, D'Aguilar Street. He frequently resided in the house below that occupied by Mr. Mehta, who recently succumbed to an attack of plague, but was living at 6, Caine Road when taken ill.

The offices of the Stockbrokers' Association were disinfected on the 22nd inst., owing to the discovery of a plague case (Chinese) there. This makes the seventh case in the building.

The library of the Hongkong Club has also been disinfected, the assistant librarian (Asiatic) having last Sunday been found to be suffering from plague. He has since died.

During the 24 hours ending at noon on Thursday there were reported 27 cases of plague and 24 deaths (all Chinese).

All the European patients in Kennedytown Hospital, we are informed, are improving in condition, as also is Mr. F. Collins, who is being treated at his residence in Caine Road.

THE "ST. DAVID" MANSLAUGHTER.

CLEMENCY OF THE CROWN.

Fifteen years ago on the 20th inst., the Hon. J. Russell, the Acting Chief Justice, sitting in Criminal Session at the Supreme Court in Hongkong, passed sentence of penal servitude for life on one George Henry Borrow, who had pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter under circumstances of a rather exceptional character. Borrow was steward on board an American sailing ship the *St. David*, and on Sunday evening, 18th April, 1886, while that vessel was lying in the Harbour discharging kerosene oil from New York, a brawl took place on the after-part of the deck. The captain was on shore at the time, and the cook, steward, and second mate entered into a heated argument upon events which had transpired upon the passage out. The second mate, who was said to be a quiet and respectable man, subsequently found the steward quarrelling with the cook in consequence of an order given by the former. The second mate took umbrage, as he was in charge of the ship at the time, and he considered that all orders should have come from him. He therefore interfered, upon which Borrow used threatening language towards him. During the course of the evening the quarrel was renewed, and Borrow, who was said to be in a state of great excitement, came out on deck to strike the second mate, and the cook took the officer's part, and knocked the steward down. Getting up again, Borrow went to his cabin, armed himself with his revolver, and again came on deck. The cook, noticing Borrow was armed, ran for the third mate, and then it was that the steward and the second mate were at close quarters. It was while in that position that Borrow drew out his revolver, and fired three successive shots at the second mate, one of which struck him in the abdomen, and another in the chest, either of which would have proved fatal. Borrow was arrested by the police, and subsequently placed before Mr. E. Mackean, one of the magistrates then sitting at the Police Court. He was formally committed for trial, and at the Sessions Mr. Leach, who was instructed by Messrs. Wotton and Deacon, appeared for the prisoner, and produced an affidavit on his behalf from Capt. Frost of the *St. David*, and another from the then U.S. Consul, Col. Withers, together with several certificates of character. His Lordship the Chief Justice in passing sentence said he had very anxiously considered what punishment should be awarded and had looked for some points in favour of the prisoner. He had considered the prisoner's previous character as shown by the affidavits produced, but human life must be protected and he (His Lordship) felt that he would fail in his duty did he not pass the heaviest sentence the law awarded—that was, that the prisoner be sentenced to penal servitude for the rest of his natural life.

Borrow, we understand, during his incarceration, has displayed considerable gallantry in several outbreaks among his fellow-convicts, and has on more than one occasion assisted the goal authorities in effecting recaptures. During his earlier life in the Victoria Gaol he trained many long-times in printing and bookbinding, and throughout his conduct has been so exemplary that, we understand, the clemency of the Crown is to be extended to him, and in a few days he will once more enjoy his liberty. When he steps forth from the gates, we are told that some of his countrymen will meet him, and will at once secure his return to his native land.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 21st May.

PORTUGUESE CONSUL GOES ON LEAVE.

On the 21st inst. the Portuguese Consul-General, Mr. J. H. C. Crespo, with Mrs. Crespo, left Canton by the s.s. *Fatshan* to go home on sick leave. A number of persons went on board to bid them farewell, and the Portuguese band was also there playing the "Hymno de Carto." The street leading to the steamer-wharf was lined with a guard of honour under Capt. Yeang. Shortly after the farewell toasts, in which the Consul expressed his regret at having to leave Canton on short furlough, and courteously thanked those present, the steamer left, followed by a steam launch with the band on board playing. A lot of fire-crackers were let off. The Portuguese Consulate is in charge of the British Consul General, Mr. B. C. G. Scott.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 17th May.

LENIENCY FOR INSURGENTS.

There is a marked tendency toward leniency in dealing with the higher insurgent officials. Some months ago it was generally understood that for several of the leaders surrender would be little better than death in the field, as they were credited with crimes and violations of legitimate warfare that any court would sentence them to death for. But as the time approaches for the close of the present administration and the struggling insurrection has collapsed almost beyond recognition, the spirit has changed and leaders who surrender, and especially those who bring in guns, are receiving more consideration than they could have hoped for six months ago. Owing to numerous circumstances, the investigations are not pushed with extreme severity, and it is very probable that a number of prominent insurgents are escaping punishment by laying the blame on subordinates. In many cases this is justifiable, as the lack of communication and the unorganised character of the hostilities gave the petty chiefs great liberty, and there is no doubt that they abused their opportunities.

Two thousand prisoners of war have been ordered to be released in order to signalise the important occasions when Aguinaldo and Tinio took the oath of allegiance to the United States. Nearly all these men have been returned to their homes, and when Malvar and Cailles surrender, General MacArthur will probably set free another large batch. Thus when the Civil Government takes hold in July there will be very few military prisoners for General MacArthur's successor to take over.

COMMISSARY OFFENDERS SEVERELY TREATED.

While leniency is being shown toward insurgents, the greatest severity is exercised in the treatment of the commissary offenders. The cases in which the sentences have been made public involve very small sums of money, but the punishments have been heavy. Nothing is known in regard to the outcome of the trials of the army officers. If the sentences be dismissal or more, the records will have to be sent to Washington and reviewed under the President's direction, unless some special exception is made. If less than dismissal, the result will soon be known. If the records are sent to Washington there will be a great loss of time, and besides losing the public effect of speedy punishment, the delay will embarrass the Government and some of the officers who are Volunteers are scheduled to be mustered out by the end of June.

NO GIGANTIC FRAUDS.

The military commission and courts have been busy day after day trying the petty civilian offenders and enlisted men of the army, but progress is slow at best. Very small sums are involved, and the idea that a gigantic fraud was discovered in Manila is entirely erroneous. In the aggregate these small sums amount to quite a figure, but all the cases to date have not exceeded 5,000. As I have written before this, there has been systematic petty stealing among natives and cargo-handlers and even among

enlisted men ever since the occupation of the city. This is well known to the department, and from time to time the thieves have been punished. But no individual thefts amounting to any considerable sums have been unearthed.

Every effort is being made to sift the matter to the bottom and where guilt is established the punishment is prompt and heavy.

MANILA INDIGNANT AT PRESS MISSTATEMENTS.

Since the last mail has arrived from America there has been much indignation felt here over the attitude of a large part of the press. The actual conditions have been so exaggerated and distorted that one would suppose that Manila was a hotbed of official corruption that would easily carry the record for crime. The American papers are not so much to blame as the irresponsible journalists in Manila who have cabled these highly coloured sensationalisms.

The *New York Sun* and other conservative papers have placed the real conditions before the people in a true light. In speaking of the distorted reports that have found their way into the American press, a general officer stated that it was a matter of the utmost commiseration that such impressions should be sent out, and that Manila and the present hardworking administration should be so unjustly maligned before the public.

WEIHAIWEI.

Weihaiwei, 9th May.

THE CRISIS IN COREA.

On Sunday afternoon the t.b.d. *Otter* brought important, almost sensational, despatches here from Admiral Bruce, now at Chemulpo, concerning events in the Hermit Kingdom. It is a matter of common knowledge that relations have become strained between the Corean Government and their nominal servant, Mr. McLeavy Brown. Mr. Brown, it appears, has received notice to quit. His prompt appeal for English support has received an equally prompt response from Admiral Bruce and the military authorities here. This should be specially gratifying to the British community in the Far East, as being another indication of the determination of our Government to maintain British prestige even in a part of the world that Russia has long been coveting.

It is rumoured that the action of the Corean Government is due to French and Russian intrigue, and that Japan is giving diplomatic assistance to England. Certain it is that our representative at Seoul is to receive all possible support, and every preparation has been made to send a small expeditionary force to Chemulpo.

On receipt of the despatches preparations were immediately made by the Commissioner, Major-General Dorward, to send a force of 1,500 troops by H.M.S. *Terrible* to Chemulpo. The expedition is under orders to leave at six hours' notice.

THE TROOPS UNDER ORDERS

include the 2nd Company, Southern Division, R.G.A., with 4.7 in. guns and several 12 pounders, all under Major Powells.

Of the First Chinese Regiment six companies of 100 men each will be commanded by Major C. D. Bruce.

Major Dawes is to take four companies of the 28th Madras Infantry.

Detachments of Marines, the Bombay Sappers and Miners, and the Royal Engineers are to swell the total. Major Cree, R.A.M.C., will take charge of No. 1 British General Hospital, and No. 1 Native General Hospital.

The whole force is to be commanded by Major-General Dorward. C.B., D.S.O., and Captain Colomb, D.A.A.G., will be Chief of the Staff.

Should it be necessary to dispatch this expedition Lieut. Col. Lowry, commanding the 28th Madras Infantry, will be Acting Commissioner in General Dorward's absence.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

The following appointments have been made at the Admiralty:—Captain.—A. W. Carter, to the *Glory*, as flag captain to Vice-Admiral Sir C. A. G. Bridge, to date April 24. Chaplain and Naval Instructor Rev. C. Moore, M. A., to the *Talbot*, to date April 20. Commander—S. E. Erskine, the *Alacrity*, to date April 18. Sub-lieutenant—D. C. H. Dalrymple to the *Talbot*, to date April 18.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

MUNICIPAL FREEDOM IN HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
16th May.

SIR,—The article *re* the above in this morning's issue of your enterprising journal has not come as a surprise; it was to be expected that the administrative jumble in Hongkong would sooner or later cease to be regarded with the public apathy that has so long marked its existence, and now the protest of an enlightened community against the incompeteney of those responsible for its government has come. Of all colonies or settlements in the Far East, Hongkong appears to be absolutely the most backward in everything that tends to the public good. The only direction in which possibly it may excel is in the production of smells, and the strength of these goes without saying; as for some of its streets, they would disgrace a mining camp in the backwoods. Is it to be wondered at that we have plague, that diseases of nearly every kind under the sun abound? Surely not. We have a Sanitary Board, but beyond meeting every now and again to air its views on this or that question, it appears to be doing practically nothing. Remedial measures of a radical nature are wanted, and they must be taken. As "Scrutator" very properly remarks, these would be attended by enormous expenditure but is a question of expenditure to stand in the way when the public welfare is at stake, and eternally block reform? The sanitary—or, rather, insanitary—conditions prevailing to-day in Hongkong are not matters of yesterday. They have prevailed ever since the colony became a British possession, and though they have to a certain extent been improved, they exist to-day in a degree that should not be at all possible in a progressive British colony. Reforms and improvements in every direction are urgently required, and since those in office have shown themselves to be either incapable or unwilling to appreciate that fact, let the community itself take the matter up, and, by holding public meetings or appointing deputations, bring its grievances before the government in a way that will ensure their being considered.—Yours, etc.,

RATEPAYER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
18th May.

SIR,—Now that "Scrutator," in his only too true article, has raised public interest, why not take some decided action to endeavour to move the apparently indifferent body governing the colony.

Is there not someone amongst us capable of convening a meeting at which a deputation might be formed to wait on the Governor, and if no satisfaction is obtain in that quarter, to forward a petition to the Home Government.

This same thing has had to be gone through in other colonies, and beneficial results only obtained when a decided action was taken.

I sincerely trust that some well-known man will call a meeting, so that this agitation which so badly needed a start will not be allowed to die out, but be taken a step higher than it has ever reached before—that of action. I for one will gladly bear my share of any expense in this matter.—Yours, etc.,

ACTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"
17th May.

SIR,—Will you kindly spare me a corner in your valuable paper to approve *in extenso* the article which appeared in your paper of yesterday, under the heading of "The Need of Municipal Freedom in Hongkong." Your correspondent "Scrutator" has very ably touched on all the important points regarding the evils, which are at present besetting our beautiful island home, so there is nothing left for me but to wish that it will prove to be the means of stirring up the Government and the Sanitary Board to attend to their municipal duties more capably. If they cannot or are not able to do so, let them give it up as a bad job, and let us have a Municipal Council to look after our affairs.—Yours, etc.,

HONGKONGITE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS,"
19th May.

SIR,—"Protest's" grievances can be easily redressed by getting rid of everything *Chinese*. When the colony is rid of that element, it will be rid of plague, and then "Protest" and his sympathisers will be able to have Hongkong entirely to themselves.—Yours, etc.,

A TAX-PAYER AND A VOTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
19th May.

SIR,—"Scrutator" has gone far, but not far enough. The reason why they can't get men here to do the work is because they don't know how to treat men properly, and they are so blind that they can't tell "t'other from which." Look at the Dockyard Police. Commodore Powell is advertising for men while good ones are resigning. What's the reason? A European comes here out of employment and hard up—why he'll take anything that comes along. He goes to the dockyard, produces his papers, and is taken on probation. He does his month or two, and he leaves with a pathetic good-bye to the Commodore and the Inspector. What's the reason? A professional man or a mechanic at home sees an advertisement in a paper "Wanted—for Hongkong." The Crown agents produce an agreement. The applicant signs it, and in due course takes passage out. But, "Oh my" he soon elects to throw up the sponge. What's the reason? A "sister" on travel bent is sent out to labour at the Civil Hospital. A little while, and she resigns or goes to Japan "for a holiday." What's the reason? How is it, Sir, that all these Government civil servants "never proceed to follow the 'official' light, but always follow"—the next steamer, if they can? To my mind, there must be something rotten in the State of Denmark.—Yours, etc.,

THEOLOGICAL COSMOPOLITE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
22nd May.

SIR,—It would really appear as if "Scrutator's" able articles had aroused the thinking public of Hongkong from that drowsy state of apathetic despond in which it has so long slumbered. Go where you will, from Government House to the smallest British ratepayer's crowded home, "Scrutator's" ideas and identity are being discussed. People seem at last to understand that they should be ashamed to have taken so little thought of affairs whose proper and intelligent regulation so nearly concerns each one of us personally—to realise that this Colony's most vital interests and responsibilities are being neglected and muddled by officials who, wrapped up in the smug consciousness of their own unctuous righteousness and innate superiority, pose as lath-and-plaster pillars of the State, controlling, in slip shod fashion, those municipal affairs which they disdain to regulate. Every attempt at reform here is met by a *non-possumus*. The bogey of the Chinese ratepayer swamping the European community, introducing his civilisation, and enforcing his ideas of sanitation, is held before us.

Sir, this argument is most fallacious. I venture most emphatically to state that the Chinese in this Colony, who are *bonâ fide* British subjects ready to do their duty towards their fellow-citizens and our glorious empire, are considerably less numerous than those of other races who are proud to own allegiance to Edward VII. When the great majority of Chinese residents cease to look to a Canton Viceroy for orders, and refrain from assisting, through their cowardly silence, the emmissaries of a hostile government in wreaking vengeance on their defenceless countrymen dwelling under the protection of the British flag, it will be time, Sir, then to talk of giving them those claims to citizenship which are the birthright of every British-born subject.

Let those who would doubt the cogency of my argument contrast the absence of our so-called Chinese subjects from the Proclamation ceremony (the function was completely spoiled through holding it in a confined place simply for their convenience), as also their utter

indifference to everything connected with the accession of their new ruler, with the enthusiastic outbursts of loyalty in India, Ceylon, the Straits, indulged in by his Majesty's other Asiatic subjects.

Any one who mixed amongst the good citizens at the Refineries or Docks would know that they took a real interest in the Colony's well-being, and felt that here they were being deprived of a controlling power in local matters which at home they would have possessed in affairs of Empire.

They delight in those efforts in the Sanitary Board, successful in their object but futile in their effect, to show up the shortcomings and imbecilities of a dilatory Government. Even lordly members of Council have dilated in strong language over the dinner-table on the woes of Hongkong, and their own ridiculous position. Would that the words had been spoken in the Council chamber, but perchance they feared even His Excellency's presence might not protect them from bellicose officials!

"Who would be free themselves must strike the blow," but up to the present the only offensive attempt has been the Chief of Police's celebrated challenge.

Let us be up and doing. The Hon. T. H. Whitehead is again amongst us. He organised a crusade in Parliament to further our interests, which had a moderate success. "Opportunity makes the man." Let him put his hand to the plough. The land has lain fallow long enough. He will find his fellow-citizens true and

READY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"

Hongkong, 22nd May 1901.

SIR,—It is evident that the present newspaper agitation for municipal freedon is the outcome of past failures in sanitation and attempts to improve the health of the Colony. Although we have introduced and adopted a new and elaborate system of drainage, concreted nearly the whole surface of the Colony, and whitewashed the houses of the city twice every year for the past seven years, plague is still with us. In certain respects it is worse, several Europeans having already succumbed to the disease.

If plague, malaria, typhoid and kindred diseases are to be stamped out, money must be spent; and the Government cannot help sacrificing its reversion and the wealthy landlords their incomes.

In improving the sanitation of the Colony, there are many points which require careful study.

Two questions of paramount importance are:—

1. Improvement of the drainage system.
2. The housing of the inhabitants.

The present system of drainage, although perfect in its way, is unsuitable, for the following reasons:—

The drain pipes are too small, and are liable to get choked.

The pipes are difficult to clean, and also the numerous traps and gullies.

The joints of the pipes interfere with the free passage of sewage and induce the mud and rubbish to settle.

The rotting rubbish and stagnant sewage matter is just the stuff to breed plague germs. Rats and other drain-vermin and insects get inoculated with these germs, rush out into the open for fresh air, die in the houses, poison the air, and so help to introduce the disease to man.

Mosquitoes breed in countless millions in the stagnant water and sewage of the traps and gullies and drains, and who can say that they, together with fleas, are not transmitting agents of plague, malaria, typhoid fever and other dreaded diseases?

The mosquito plague from which we are at present suffering, obliges us to sleep with closed curtains at night, thus compelling us to shut out fresh air and breathe the warm fetid air inside the curtains, to the detriment of our health. I need not mention that they torment and worry the life out of us at times; for I think I can get many willing testimonials on this point.

The traps of the drains being open day and night, the poisonous gases escape from them, and pollute the surrounding atmosphere. The stench around traps is sickening; and what medical man dares to say that such a state of the atmosphere is not injurious to health?

The air of nearly every ground-floor in the Colony is contaminated and charged with poisonous sewer gas, and the wonder is that there is not more sickness.

Before the system of traps and gullies was introduced, we had very few, if any, mosquitoes, and none of the abominable stinks which often greet our nasal organs as we pass along the streets of the city. We were also free from plague! But, of course, I don't mean to say that the drains are the sole cause of plague, as doctors say there are other agents at work.

It is useless to cover the traps with bags and chloride of lime, and to pour gallons of Jeyes' Fluid and other disinfectants down the drains. This is only cheating ourselves. The protection is imaginary, and money is wasted.

Why not remove the causes of the present deplorable state of affairs by (*a*) introducing covered cement, rendered cement-concrete, drains, where advisable (these give a smooth channel and allow of the free passage of sewage); (*b*) abolishing the mosquito and germ-breeding system of traps and gullies, or if this cannot be done, covering these up during the dry season; (*c*) introducing more covered manholes; (*d*) introducing high sewer-ventilating pipes; (*e*) adopting surface drains for houses, with traps and ventilating pipes in the yards, and lastly, but most important of all, erecting large flushing tanks on the high levels for the thorough flushing of the sewers with salt water pumped from the harbour. The sewage should not be allowed to pollute the harbour—as witness the state of the Praya at low tide—but should be pumped and carried out to sea. The last item means a heavy annual expenditure, but if we want to keep our city fresh and healthy and free from plague and other diseases, we must be prepared to pay for it. Better spend money sensibly and effectually than waste thousands of dollars annually on imaginary preventive measures, exasperating and annoying alike to body, mind and temper.

From drains we come to houses.

The proper housing of the inhabitants is of the greatest importance to the health and prosperity of the Colony. The inhabitants, especially the poorer class of Chinese, are packed together like sardines. The houses are high in proportion to the width of the streets and lanes, and there is a total absence of light and air. The various flats are low and suffocating, and lacking in proper ventilation. Fresh air cannot circulate through them and neither can the sun's rays penetrate to their dark and fetid interiors. In fact many of the houses are surrounded and situated in dark damp lanes where even at daytime lights have to be lit by the occupants of the ground and first floors before they can see their way about. Such places breed plague and disease, and it is no wonder that the plague clings to the Colony so tenaciously when there are so many "breeding" localities in existence.

I would suggest that the Government lay out a model town on the New Praya (East), at Causeway Bay or at Kowloon by erecting twin houses, fronting wide streets, and with lanes between every alternate pair. This would give thorough ventilation, and tenants would have the benefit of fresh air and sunlight. The side walls of each pair of houses could be erected with large windows, and the party or dividing wall ventilated by means of circular windows or ventilators in order to insure a free passage of the air. Kitchens and bath-houses could be erected at the rear of each block.

Some may argue that such a scheme would be very expensive and wasteful, but in consideration of the benefits to be derived, I think it worth while sacrificing a little money and land. Such houses would bring in higher rentals, and a better class of tenants.

Of course it would be impossible to deal with all the existing houses in this way, but on old houses being demolished for re-erection, I think it would be well for the Government to pass a law making it compulsory for landlords to erect, where convenient and advisible, twin houses under the condition that the loss in the value of land is made up between them proportionately.

The Government will have to suffer loss through compensating the landlords, but the money can well be spared in consideration of the benefit which the Colony will derive from such a change. There will be more breathing space, the value of house property will be enhanced and new localities will have to be opened up for the Colony's surplus population. Workmen, artisans and coolies will have to remove to the suburbs, the congested state of the city will be relieved, and a flourishing system of tramways will be the result.

The game is worth the candle, the treasury will benefit in the long run, and Hongkong, as the third shipping port of the world will proper by leaps and bound. But how is the Colony to prosper if, through the continued presence of plague, it is quarantined year after year by the various ports and trading centres of the world? It is therefore clear that for crying evils we need drastic remedies.

For tropical countries public baths are a necessity, not only for coolies, but for all classes of the community; and H.E. the Governor deserves the thanks of the Colony for being the first to introduce them. At present they are run at a loss to the Government, but in a couple of years time they will be the means of adding to the revenue of the Colony.

In dealing with plague patients there is a point which requires careful study, and which may lead to riots and strikes as in India, if not attended to in time. I hope the Government will give this point its serious attention. I mean the transfer of the sick and dead from the Colony to the mainland of China. It is a concession which the Chinese are praying for, and for which I believe they have already petitioned the Government. The removal of the sick and dead can do no harm to the Colony, but the contrary, as it will relieve the place of its sick and dead, thereby decreasing the chances of infection and future outbreaks. Of course it will be necessary to register and supervise these departures as in previous years. Thousands and thousands have died and been buried in and around Canton, and any sensible man can see that the few from Hongkong are but a drop in the ocean.

Doctors may argue that this would be spreading the disease, but the argument is silly, when everything is taken into consideration. Nature will do her work.

There is nothing the Chinese dislike so much as to have the bodies of their friends and relatives buried and burnt in quick-lime, another method of cremating them.

If the Chinese want to leave the Colony for their homes, and the Chinese Government has no objection, I cannot see why the Hongkong Government should not allow them to go. The present enforcement of the Convention is a farce. Although the Venice Convention forbids such removals, it was drafted for European countries, and the drafters of the convention being quite ignorant of the conditions prevailing in the Colony and the mainland, the Home Government should be approached through H. E. the Governor with a view to amending the law as applied to Hongkong and granting the concession prayed for by the Chinese.

Hoping others will come forward with better schemes for the benefit of the Colony.—Yours, etc.,

T.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 23rd May.

SIR,—"Scrutator's" valuable and thoughtful letter to the *Daily Press* has set free a flood of opinions, wise and otherwise, concerning this most important subject, the general result being an absolute disregard of the main principle which should govern a discussion of this nature, namely, the inalienable right of a man to manage his own affairs and control his own expenditure. The concession of this principle is the basis of the foundation of all municipal organisations, as diametrically opposed to that system of Governmental oligarchy under which we profess to be governed in Hongkong and in one or two other places. It is a laid down axiom that, before complete, or even partial, municipal freedom can be granted any community, such community must have demenstrated its absolute fitness to receive the boon, and that Hongkong has done this many years ago is, we think, an admitted fact. It is not our ability, or otherwise, however, with which the Government is concerned when they decide to prohibit us becoming municipally free; it is because of the so-called Imperial interests involved which, when all is said and done, are quite as much

matters of local interest. The advantages of municipal government of the people by the people are many and manifest, but it will only be necessary to instance a few of the more important. In the first place, it ensures the management of local affairs being entrusted to a body of men intimately acquainted with and interested in the requirements of the community; secondly, it ensures a prompt and speedy recognition of local needs, and the equally prompt action of giving effect to them; and, thirdly, it is by means of Municipal Government only that the wants and necessities of the community can be made plainly apparent to the higher authorities. These are reasons in favour of municipal freedom which we do not imagine can be gainsaid. On the other hand, and particularly in reference to Hongkong, what is there to be urged against it? Unless it be a valid reason that might is justified in dominating right, we can discover none. The miserable farce which has been played out *ad nauseam* on the Sanitary Board has nearly reached the fall of the curtain, and public opinion is intensely exercised as to what sort of play will be staged next. It surely cannot be intended to continue on with the Sanitary Board fiasco, despite the attitude of the public towards it, and because of its absolute failure in catering to our requirements? This would be the very perfection of folly indeed. No, it is very evident that the whole municipal system in vogue in Hongkong will have to be remodelled, even if vested interests have to suffer in the process. It is the Government of the few for the many that we need, not that of the few for the capitalists, which is actually the system under which we exist and against which we have long protested in vain. To secure this, absolute municipal freedom is the only means, and surely among the many enlightened citizens of Hongkong there must be many ready to lead a crusade in its favour.

MEDICO.

PLAGUE TREATMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 21st May.

SIR,—I shall thank you if you will be good enough to spare a space in your well-known paper. The plague during the current year is of a very virulent form, and it is a pity that many foreigners have also fallen victims to this scourge. The case occurred of one of the leading brokers, Mr. R. M. Mehta, and his removal to the plague hospital and death, has prompted me to make a few suggestions, which I hope will not be in any way against the ruling of the Government. I simply suggest that the patient is at first quite unaware that he is attacked with plague, and as long as he is at his own place, and treated by his own doctor, well and good, he thinks that he is simply ill and will get through; but as soon as he is removed to the plague hospital, he knows where he is, and fear and surroundings in many cases have a bad effect, and a weak-minded patient dies sooner. If the patient be allowed to be treated at his own place, of course isolated, and only one or two attending who keep no company with the rest of the family, I think, there is some hope of his recovery. In Bombay, as far as my knowledge goes, plague patients who can afford it are treated in their own place by their own doctor, and if necessary by the doctor in charge of the plague hospital. Cannot this system be adopted here? In Bombay a house in which such cases occur is at the moment closed, limewashed, cleaned and disinfected by the authorities, and after a lapse of time, say ten days or even more, that house is reoccupied. Some houses in which more than five cases occurred were closed by the authorities altogether. Is it done here? If so, well and good; otherwise the plans suggested will be a vast improvement.—Yours, etc.,

ANTES.

PARSEES AND PLAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Canton, 22nd May.

SIR,—There have already been two deaths from plague in the small Parsee community in Hongkong since the outbreak in 1894; but it is much to be regretted that their religious scruples are not taken into consideration at all by the plague authorities, as is done in India. Perhaps the fault lies with the Parsees themselves, that they do not bring this fact to the notice of the authorities, that the dead body of a Parsee is laid by his own men in bier or coffin, and that it should be witnessed by at least two men of the community, and the touch or glimpse of an outsider is desecration, disrespect to the dead one, and calamity to the family. The people in the hospital notify the death to the friends and relations after a very long time, and before they turn up coffins are nailed, put away on one side, and are liable to be changed with those of the Chinese. It is devoutly to be wished that, in future, friends or relatives will be immediately informed of the sad occurrence, and the coffins not nailed till they are claimed for due ceremony and decent burial by their co-religionists. There have been deep grumblings amongst the older and more religious section of the Community, and it behoves the authorities that they do not give unnecessary cause for such grumbling, after they know these religious scruples, and see that proper sanitary precautions are taken by them.

A PARSEE.

MISSIONARIES IN CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

17th May.

SIR,—With your kind permission, I would return once more, for a few brief remarks, to Mr. Michie's lecture. In his account of the modern introduction of Christianity into China, he would have us believe that a spirit of political and military aggression, on the part of France, at least, and French missionaries, was veiled beneath demands for purely religious liberties and privileges. He gives up the "Romanist branch," governments and missionaries alike apparently, as quite incorrigible in their "mundane aims." He must be aware, however, and it should be noted, that many Roman Catholic missionaries do not fail to recognise and regret the evils of working under armed protection, though many consider that way of working as the less of two evils, if not the only way practicable under present circumstances. In the last publication of the Catholic mission press of Shanghai, a work of the late Rev. L. Baillard, entitled *Nankin Port Ouvert*, the author quotes (p. 167), from another French missionary, a remark which he qualifies as made with great justice, to the effect that the French religious protectorate is, like most things human, mixed with good and evil. Were their aims as mundane as Mr. Michie seems to suppose, the missionaries would hardly see evil in secular protection.

In the sketch of the successive privileges granted to missionaries under pressure from Western powers, the author's running commentary is hardly justified by the facts as simply stated. Confining ourselves to France, if under the government of Louis-Philippe, in 1842 and 1844, the missionaries could not get the hearing they desired, and could not obtain treaty sanction for privileges which they considered just and necessary, it is not surprising that they tried to get more, or at least to have things stated more clearly, when the question came up again under the Empire. Nor does it appear where the hypocrisy comes in, as long as the privileges were asked for, really as well as ostensibly, for the furtherance of missionary work. And to this end, as a matter of fact, have the treaty clauses in question served, and it is thanks to them that Catholic missionaries have been able to establish missions all over the empire, and to prosecute their work in some places with palpable and satisfactory results. Even if certain French statesmen seemed to foresee advantages to their country in the privileges obtained for their missionaries, it could not therefore be argued that the treaty stipulations covered deceit and hypocrisy. Such a charge would suppose that missionary interests were only a pretext; which was not the case, as contemporary history of the missions shows.

As to the so-called interpolated clause in the convention of 1860, there is nothing particularly "audacious or flagitious" in the affair plainly stated. Mr. Michie is mistaken in saying that the clause stipulated the restitution of former missionary property; that point is clear in the French text as well as in the Chinese. The clause not found in the French text consists of just eighteen words, and it concedes to missionaries the right to rent, buy and build in all the provinces. Abbe Delamarre, acting as interpreter to Baron Gros, secured the insertion of that clause in the Chinese text, to render more clear and precise the rights already implicitly conceded by previous treaties, in particular by that of 1858. In Art. XIII of that treaty, missionaries were granted the right of going into the interior to pursue their work, and unless that clause were to be rendered purely nugatory, they thereby acquired the right of having chapels of some kind, and houses to live in. The same is implied in the restitution of missionary property, which, as I have just noted, is clear in both texts.

That the clause was not inserted without the knowledge of the Chinese, or at least that its stipulations were not considered to exceed known treaty rights, is sufficiently proved by the fact that the form of the passport, drawn up by convention soon after the signing of the treaty, clearly states the privileges in question; nor was there any demur made to such insertion. Again, when the French Minister, M. Berthemy, brought up the question five years later, in 1865, Li Hung-chang and the members of the Tsung-li Yamen had not a word to say against the validity of the clause. Mr. Michie's explanation of such silence is hardly satisfactory. It is far more natural to suppose that they said nothing, because the clause had been taken on the Chinese side as a valid part of the treaty from the very beginning. It is regretable that it should have been left out of the French text, but better than that it should have been found in the French text only; in which case the charge of fraud might have been more plausible. Taking the matter at its worst, it does not appear a fraud, either "audacious and flagitious" or otherwise, to have inserted into the text which the Chinese were supposed to read, and most probably did read, before signing, a clause which, far from violating the spirit of the treaty, is closely in keeping with, and a natural consequence of other treaty stipulations. Taking it at its worst, I say, for it is by no means certain that the clause was not duly submitted to the commissioners, and agreed to on the one side and the other.

Just as many of Mr. Michie's views and observations are, it is thought by some a matter of regret that the lecturer, in a discourse to be delivered before so distinguished an audience, and destined in pamphlet form to reach such a wide public, was not more careful about certain points of fact, and more guarded against assertions open to exception.

SAM-PA-TSAI.

THE ARMAMENT OF HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

20th May.

SIR,—I have noted of late, with great interest, several articles in the [illegible] papers relating to the inefficient armament of Hongkong. Especially do they seem to dwell upon the deficiency in that respect of the Southern shores of our Island; but it appears to me that we are not so devoid of protection as the writer of the articles referred to seems to suppose.

I have observed that there are two kinds of armament for coast defence, viz., fixed and movable. Now, granting that there is a paucity of arms as to the former, I am given to understand that the latter is exceptionally strong, both modern and effective, and composed of material that would give a very satisfactory account of any attempt at invasion of our little isle. The one great drawback would, I take it, be the difficulty of getting the guns into position in sufficient time to repel an attack from a maritime force, and also to render them mobile enough for such from any point. I am very glad to see what great progress has been made with the new roads around the heights of Hongkong, as they will be of great advantage both for the guns and also for the mobility of the troops; but still, I am of opinion that the present state of affairs could be improved upon. What, I wonder, is to prevent the Government from adopting the plan of defence so recently depicted to us by Sir George White at Lady-

smith. I refer to the improvised railway encircling the place, upon which he ran an armoured train, manned with quick-firing guns. Now, I do not mean to say for a moment, that an armoured train is necessary for the defence of Hongkong, but what I do say is that a military railway running round the South side of our Island, on the coast road, would be of great advantage to the mobility of our quickfiring guns, for they could be conveyed to the point of attack without any delay in transport, and would have the unique advantage over fixed armament in that they could concentrate their fire on the point of attack: but although such a scheme as this would render us well nigh invulnerable against an attack from an attempt at landing an armed force, yet the fact remains that the Aberdeen Docks and other buildings, in the absence of our Fleet, are still open to a bombardment from an enemy's battleships, and I see no difficulty or reason why, instead of placing so many guns in position, to guard the inside and entrances of the harbour, the authorities could not place a battery of large calibre guns in a central position commanding the approach of any portion of the South side of the Island.

Hoping that these remarks will meet with the approbation of yourself and readers.—I am, yours, etc.

DOGMA.

THE COOLIE-BATHING SCHEME.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
19th May.

SIR,—What price the police? His Excellency the Governor is putting on hot water to give the coolies a warm plunge at Wanchai and elsewhere. May I ask Sir Henry through your columns to give us a similar treat? We deserve it equally as much as the dusty coolie.—Yours, &c.,

AN UNWASHED POLICEMAN.

"A GHASTLY SIGHT."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
19th May.

SIR,—Travelling along the Caine Road the other morning I was surprised to see a coffin containing a plague-stricken body being conveyed to Kennedy-town with the lid at least two or three inches open. My surprise reached its highest bound when I saw a member of the Sanitary Board in his chair looking at the ghastly sight and holding on to his nasal organ for all he was worth. This needs no comment in the light of recent events.—Yours, &c.,

CAVE CANEM.

PLIMSOLL'S MARK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
17th May.

SIR,—Who informed the *China Mail* that Plimsoll's mark was not required outside the United Kingdom, and in Colonial waters? My opinion is that as long as a vessel flies the British flag in any part of the world she is bound by the chiselled mark placed upon her by the Board of Trade when she is registered. If I am wrong, will some of your maritime readers put me right?—Yours, &c.,

LUBBER.

A Seoul telegram of the 8th inst., says that at a Cabinet meeting held there on the 6th it was decided to cancel the French loan contract. The French Minister to Seoul, it is said, will lodge a demand with the Corean Government for an indemnity of 500,000 yen owing to cancellation of the contract.

There is no truth, says the *Naval & Military Record*, in the report that the King intends to form an Indian Bodyguard. The story appears to have its foundation in the suggestion that a number of picked men from the different Indian regiments should be sent over to England for the Coronation. These, with troops from the Colonies, will form a guard for the Coronation only. At present, at any rate, there is no intention to organise an Indian Guard, though it is not improbable that now the idea has been mooted it will not be allowed to drop out of sight altogether.

MESSRS. A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

The sixteenth annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., Limited, was held on the 32nd inst. Mr. H. Humphreys, Chairman, presided, and the other gentlemen present were:—Messrs. H. F. E. Brayne, Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., E. Osborne, J. A. Jupp and H. P. White (Consulting Committee), A. H. Mancell, J. A. Tarrant, W. C. Taylor, R. E. Humphreys, E. H. Joseph, E. W. Terrey, and J. F. Reece.

The CHAIRMAN said—Before commencing the business of the meeting, there is a matter to which I must refer, and that is the three cases of plague which occurred among the Company's European staff in the early part of this month. As you already know, two out of the three cases terminated fatally, and it is with great regret that we have to record the deaths of Messrs. H. C, Howorth and Harold Thorne from this cause. Both were young men of excellent character and attainments and of great promise, and in their unfortunate deaths the Company has lost two valuable servants, whom it will not be easy to replace. Mr. Hawkes, I am glad to say, is improving daily, and we may soon expect to see him out of Hospital. There seems to be no doubt that the disease was contracted practically simultaneously by all three. There have been no further cases, and we may therefore reasonably assume that the trouble is now over and that the disease was in no way contracted through any fault of our premises, but from some unfortunate chance cause, such as the finding of a dead rat or the bite of a parasite, which any Hongkong resident may be liable to. The Hongkong Dispensary premises have always been well looked after and maintained in a perfectly sanitary condition. The majority of the staff resided in the six-storey building facing Queen's Road, which is a comparatively new structure completed only about ten years ago. Since the occurrence of the disease, the entire premises have been thoroughly disinfected, the drains have been examined and the floors taken up, but nothing whatever has been found that could in any way account for what has happened. As a precautionary measure the whole of the European staff is temporarily housed in other quarters.

The business of the meeting was then proceded with.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the Report and Statement of Accounts have been in your hands since the 10th instant, so with your permission we will, as usual, take them as read. The total of our stock-in-trade shows a considerable increase over last year's total. Nearly the whole of this increase has taken place at our European branches, especially in Manila, and is caused by expansion of business generally, necessitating, of course, the carrying of larger stocks. Amongst the property assets you will have noticed that the remaining portions of Kowloon Inland Lot No. 549 and Inland Lot No. 16 are not shown, having been sold during 1900, as mentioned in the Report. A new item of $150,000 appears amongst these assets for Marine Lot No. 2 C, against which there is a mortgage of $140,000 shown amongst the liabilities. This property is situated in Des Vœux Road and is intended to be used as a warehouse and soda water factory, when our new premises immediately adjoining, now in course of erection opposite the Hongkong Hotel, are completed. We mentioned, at our last general meeting, that, if the Company's business continued to expand as it had been doing, it might be necessary in the future to ask shareholders to subscribe additional capital. Such would have been the case before this, had not the sale last year of the remaining portions of Kowloon land Lot No. 549 and Inland Lot No. 16, at a good profit over book values, provided us with a considerable sum of ready money for absorption into the business, and obviated for the time being any need for further capital. We have also sold this year Section A of Kowloon Inland Lot No. 550, and Kowloon Inland Lot No. 551, at a profit of $25,438 over book values, which amount will appear in this year's accounts. We have reserved 5,000 square feet of Kowloon Inland Lot No. 550, for the purpose of erecting business premises there in the near future. This land stands in our books at 40 cents per foot. You will be pleased to know that our business this year, up to date, shows a steady expansion. I shall be pleased to answer any questions in connection with the Report and Statement of Accounts now under consideration before proceeding to move their adeption.

Mr. REECE said he had sent to the Secretary a few questions which he proposed to ask the Chairman, and he would be pleased if they were asked categorically. The first question would be:

Having regard to the fact that the New Regulations of the Company were adopted and came into operation on the 20th December, 1900, and to the fact that Article 80 of such Regulations is in its terms prospective only, how do the General Managers make out that they are entitled to a salary at the rate of $7,200 per annum and to a commission of 5 per cent. on the net profits of the Company in respect of any period prior to the said date?

To his (Mr. REECE's, mind) taking into consideration the new regulations which were confirmed on 20th December, 1900, Section 80 was prospective only, and had no retrospective operation. That being so, the General Managers were not entitled to have this increased salary, except as from 20th December last. They were only entitled at the rate of $3,600 a year.

The CHAIRMAN said in answer to Mr. Reece that he had received between four and five o'clock the previous evening a copy of certain questions which Mr. Reece signified his intention of asking at the meeting. The Chairman said the questions covered a very large field and that he could not answer them as well as he would like to do on such short notice, but he would endeavour to the best of his ability to answer seriatim.

In reply to the first question the CHAIRMAN said—Assuming for the moment that Mr. Reece is technically correct, yet the General Managers consider themselves entitled to a salary of $7,200 per annum and commission as shown in the accounts for the year 1900, as such was undoubtedly intended by the Company in general meeting when the resolutions were passed. In any event, commission on the big profit realised by the sale of Inland Lot No. 16 is due, as the transfer did not take place till the 31st December. Article 108 provided that the accounts are to be made up to the 31st December in each year, so that it would have been impossible for the profits for the year to be ascertained or divided up on the 20th December.

Mr. REECE said he did not consider the answer satisfactory, but he would again ask: Having regard to the fact that the net profits of the Company cannot be ascertained until after the amount written off for depreciation has been deducted, and to the fact that in the Balance Sheet the net profits for the year 1900, after writing off $17,106.96 for depreciation, appear to be $174,503.96, how do the General Managers make out that the net profits for that year (on which they claim to be entitled to commission) amount to $191,610.92?

The CHAIRMAN said: Amounts set aside for depreciation are legitimate appropriations of all profits, the same as paying a dividend or adding to reserve fund, and the net profits of the Company are determined before such appropriations are made. It is the custom with all the leading public companies here, take for instance the Dock Company, the Hongkong Bank, the Tramway Company and others, to write off after they have determined the net profits.

Mr. REECE: Then I ask—In respect of what items or assets appearing in the Balance Sheet is the sum of $17,160.96 for depreciation written off, and how much is written off in respect of each of such items?

The CHAIRMAN said:—The items were as follows:—

Furniture fittings	$5,988.48
Soda water machinery	2,118.48
Chinese branch furniture and fittings	3,000.00
Sec. A of Inland Lot No. 17	6,000.00
Total	$17,106.96

The first three items come under the heading of Stocks in Trade in the Balance Sheet.

Mr. REECE said his next question was: What is the total amount of commission that the General Managers have charged for the year 1900 under Article 82 of the New Regulations, and has any and how much of such commission been charged on goods ordered by or for the Company prior to the 20th December, 1900?

The CHAIRMAN replied: The question applies to the London agency. The total amount of commission for the year 1900 would amount to about £2,000. The greater part of it was commission on goods, ordered prior to 20th December, 1900. Out of this commission, the London agents have to pay office rent and rent of warehouses, salaries of all employees in London, rates, lighting, stationary, and petty charges.

Mr. REECE again asked: Have the General Managers retained, received, or charged any other, and what remuneration or commission besides the remuneration and commission claimed by them under Articles 80 and 82 of the New Regulations?

In reply to question the CHAIRMAN said:—The answer is in the negative.

Mr. REECE further asked: What was the total cost to the Company of general management for the years 1899 and 1900 respectively?

The CHAIRMAN in reply said: The cost of general management in 1899 was $13,000.00, of which sum $3,600.00 was in the shape of General Managers' fees. As the Chairman informed you at the last Extraordinary General Meeting held to confirm the new regulations in answer to a similar question of Mr. Reece's, when the late General Manager, Mr. J. D. Humphreys, was alive, certain members of the present firm of General Managers were holding posts in the Company and were of course paid by the Company for their services. It was the chief reason for bringing forward the new regulations to alter this condition of affairs, as the General Managers considered that whatever remuneration they got should be for General Management, and individual members should not be receiving separate rememeration. For 1900 the remuneration for General Management is as shown in the Balance Sheet.

Mr. REECE again queried: What were the book values of Inland Lot No. 16 and the remaining portion of Kowloon Inland Lot No. 549, and for what sums were they respectively sold?

The CHAIRMAN said: The book value of Inland Lot No. 16 has been appearing in successive balance sheets for several years, and I am rather surprised that Mr. Reece should think it necessary to ask the question, but I have no objection to saying that the price was $149,000. The profit on the sale of this property was $72,000. The profit on the sale of remaining portion of Kowloon Inland Lot No. 549 was $10.173.

Mr. REECE then asked the book value of R. P. of Inland Lot 549; and the CHAIRMAN said he was unable to say off-hand, as it was included with K.I.Lots 550 and 551, but to the best of his recollection the book price was 40 cents per square foot, and the area about 22,000 square feet.

Mr. REECE again asked: From whom, for what purpose and at what price was Marine Lot No. 2 C purchased?

The CHAIRMAN—Marine Lot No. 2 C was purchased from the Land Investment Company. I have already informed you in my speech at this meeting the object for which it was purchased.

Mr. REECE rose again and said: The net profits for the year 1899, after writing off depreciation, amounted to $97,447.11. The net profits for the year 1900, after writing off depreciation and deducting the extraordinary profit of $82,173 derived from the sales of land, amount to $92,330.96. How do the General Managers account for a falling off of $5,116.15 in the ordinary profits of the business?

The CHAIRMAN said: Many reasons can be given, such as increased cost of manufactured goods at home, disturbances in the North of China necessarily affecting our branches there, and increased salaries of the staff.

Mr. REECE lastly asked: How is the Reserve Fund invested? Having regard to the fact that Article 115 of the Old Regulations is not reproduced in the New Regulations, is not the Permanent Reserve Fund established under that Article now subject to the provisions of Article 86, paragraph 15, of the New Regulations, and must not the whole of the Reserve Fund be invested as provided by the said paragraph? Is there any power under the said paragraph to place a sum of $100,000 to the credit of the Permanent Reserve Fund without, at least, specifically investing it? Is it not the fact that under the New Regulations the General Managers have no power to employ the Reserve Fund in the business of the Company?

The Chairman said—The Reserve Fund is invested in the business. We are advised that under section 15 of Article 86 the General Managers may set aside out of the profits such a sum as they think proper as a reserve fund or for such purposes as the General Managers shall in their absolute discretion think conducive to the interests of the Company, and in adding $100,0 0 to the Permanent Reserve Fund and investing it in the business we are of opinion that we were acting in the best interests of the Company.

Mr REECE—The question, sir, is whether there is any power to do that.

The CHAIRMAN—I am advised that the transfer is in order, and within the meaning of the Article.

There being no further question, the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr E. H. JOSEPH, proposed the adoption and passing of the Report and Accounts as presented.

This was carried, Mr Reece being the only dissentient.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed that the appointment of the Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. E. Osborne, C. Ewens and H. P. White as a Consulting Committee be confirmed.

Mr. R. E. HUMPHREYS seconded.

The motion was carried, Mr. Reece again dissenting.

Mr. H. P. WHITE proposed the re-election of Mr. Francis Maitland as auditor for the ensuing year.

Mr. TERRY seconded.

This was carried, Mr, Reece not voting.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance.

THE WANCHAI WAREHOUSE AND STORAGE CO., LTD.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the above Company was held at the office of the General Managers, No. 5, Queen's Road Central, on Thursday afternoon, for the purpose of considering and (if thought fit) approving of an offer for the sale of the whole of the Company's property on Marine Lot No. 29, and Inland Lot Nos. 438/42, 613/615.

Mr. J. G. Schöter occupied the chair, and there were also present, Messrs. H. Broderson, J. Orange, E. Osborne (Consulting Committee), H. Oldenburg, A. G. Morris, A. Haupt, C. W. Dickson, A. Shelton Hooper, A. O'D. Gourdin, F. Smythe, G. T. Seth, Hon. J. J. Bell Irving, and A. von der Heyde.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, it is only a short time since we last met, but we are forced to take a decision sooner than expected regarding the position we are placed in by the Praya East reclamation scheme. You have been invited to go into the particulars of information and estimates of cost bearing on this question, which we had prepared and have been open to your inspection during the week. In the first place we might see how we stand if we take part in the reclamation and take over the land which will accrue to our Marine lot No. 29. According to estimate it will be about 64,000 square feet building ground. In a few months time would be required to definitely bind ourselves to the scheme, and the first thing apart from our share in the cost of the preliminary survey would be that we would have to find about $20,000—for the guarantee required by the Government. On this amount probably interests would be lost for five years. At present we have no available money at all, as all our income has been promised to you as dividend.

I understand that the intention is to go on with the reclamation as quickly as possible and the worst feature for us is that at the very outset, our present lease with the Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co. will be endangered. Probably owing to the Reclamation, now in active progress at the Naval Yard, the silting up of the foreshore in front of our Marine lot has begun to such an extent, that the lessees experience already now difficulties in bringing cargo-boats alongside the pier at all times. A clause in the lease gives them the right to cancel at one month's notice as soon as any Reclamation impedes the traffic. To your Committee and to my mind, this is a contingency, which must be faced at no distant date. As soon as this happens we shall lose at once all our income; not only that, but the approach from the sea being stopped, it will be impossible or at least highly improfitable to continue using our buildings as godowns. There would be no other alternative, but to pull down at once, and build Chinese houses. Before we could start we would have to pay off the mortgage of $150,000. To meet this payment and guarantee fund to the Government before mentioned, we could call up all our capital $62.50 per share or $162,500. —As this is, however, the only reserve we can fall back upon, you will readily see that this does not help us much further, because money is at once required for starting and completing such rebuilding. In Committee we have gone very carefully into this matter on the basis of estimates prepared by experts, which have also been open to your inspection and we find that a large amount of capital is required for which the return is not good enough—to justify us in recommending this plan to your approval.

Our signature to the Reclamation agreement would, however, not leave us anything also to do and we would then also have to go on with the development of the new reclamation. This again would require a very heavy outlay for the Reclamation itself, for building there of godowns on the Praya and a block of Chinese houses inland. It would take a very long time till all this would be completed and in the meantime we would have to be content with a very much reduced income. We had prepared detailed estimates of cost of developing in the manner described the whole of our property and of the returns that may fairly be expected, which you had the opportunity to inspect, and we suppose that after going into those figures showing the very extensive capital required you will agree with your Committee and myself that it would be a very difficult matter for us to carry such a great scheme successfully through.

Our considerations forced on us the conclusion that it would be advisable to sell now all our property if possible and we had before us an offer we thought fit to entertain. I cannot do better than reading to you the corr spondence that passed on the subject:

Correspondence was then read.

In going into this offer we have taken every means at our disposal to arrive at the proper value of our property. Very much depends of course whether a more or less sanguine view is taken of the future and we have received one valuation, without details, however, which is higher than the offer. The other estimates, however, going closely into the cost and the returns to be expected also include the closest calculations we could compile on this particular point. You will have seen that it is a rather complicated matter. We further enquired into the value of land in the neighbourhood, and we found that sales have taken place of Marine Lot property with the right of reclamation on terms which seem fully to bear out these detailed estimates. As the latter nearly agree with the price offered we felt justified in putting this proposal before you for your consideration. All the particulars on which we based our opinion have been at your disposal and I endeavoured to give in the foregoing all further information, the decision now must rest with you. I shall be glad to answer to the best of my ability any questions. I will now propose the following resolution:—

That this Meeting do approve of the sale of the Company's property Marine Lot No. 29, Inland—Lot No. 438 to 442—613 to 615 with buildings thereon to the Hongkong Land Investment & Agency Co., Ltd. at the price of $300.000.—on the conditions enumerated in

the correspondence between the General Managers and Messrs Vernon & Smyth, dated 12th April, 3rd May, 8th May and 15th May respectively, and that the General Managers do take all necessary steps for carrying out such sale as soon as reasonably possible.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. DICKSON, the resolution was carried.

The meeting then separated.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday March 18th.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.
BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, KT C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CHARGE AGAINST GEORGE ALLEN.

On the sitting of the court the Acting Attorney General (Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C.) rose, and mentioned the indictment which had been preferred against Geore Allen in connection with the vitriol-throwing case. Counsel said that the hearing would probably occupy the court for some time, Mr. Francis having been engaged for the defence, and he asked that it should be taken on Monday.

Later in the proceedings counsel again rose, and said a question had arisen as to Allen's bail of $40,000.

His Lordship referred counsel to the bail-bond. It was the practice, he added, that the bond covered the whole sessions.

Subsequently, and after counsel had referred to the bond, his Lordship asked: Are you satisfied that it covers the whole sessions?

Mr. Pollock: Yes, my Lord, He has to surrender when called upon to take his trial.

THE CHARGE AGAINST SANITARY INSPECTOR MILLS.

The Acting Attorney General asked that John Mills the Sanitary Inspector, be brought forward. That having been done counsel rose, and said: My Lord, after careful enquiry into this case, I have come to the conclusion that the prosecution would most certainly result in an acquittal: therefore I have decided to file no indictment, and I ask that the accused might be discharged.

Mills was then formally discharged, and left the Court.

OUTRAGE IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

Pang Man, Pang Lui, and Pang Kwai Po were indicted on three counts for armed robbery at Sai Kung in the New Territory.

The following jury (without any challenges) were empannelled, with the first named as foreman; Messrs, Gustav Gerhard Johannes Atzenroth, David Gow, Arthur Rylands Lowe, Archibald Cameron, Edward Monts Hans Schubert, Archibald Ritchie and Herbert Ernest Moon. Before the last-named gentleman was balloted the name of Mr. Frank Smyth was called. He stepped forward in front of the jury box, and handed a letter to his Lordship.

His Lordship: I understand, Mr. Smyth, you wish to be excused because you are Reuter's Agent. I presume you can send telegrams at other times than the business hours of the court.

Mr. Smyth: It's the receiving and dispatching, Sir.

His Lordship: I am afraid I cannot excuse you on that ground.

The letter was then handed to the Acting Attorney-General, who subsequently said:

"I am quite willing Mr. Smyth should stand back.

His Lordship: Very well! You can go.

Mr. Pollock then addressed the jury and described in detail the circumstances connected with the alleged outrage. They were to the effect that on the 25th ult. the prisoners entered the house of a married woman, armed with knives and other implements, and after threatening the inmates, proceeded to the cock-loft and carried off all the money and available clothing. They were subsequently tracked down by Sergeant Ritchie.

The jury found the prisoners guilty and they were each sentenced to seven years' hard labour, and twenty strokes of the birch during the first week of their imprisonment.

Monday, 20th May.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, KT., C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE)

THE VITRIOL-THROWING PROSECUTION.

George Allen was indicted under Ordinances 4 of 1865, Sec. 27; 4 of 65, Sec. 62; and Ordinance 5 of 1865, Section 2, as follows:—

Lo Tsoi on the 14th March, 1901, at Victoria in this colony, felonously, unlawfully and maliciously did cast and throw upon one Francis George Reek, a certain corrosive fluid, to wit, nitric acid, with intent in so doing to do some grievous bodily harm to him, the said Francis George Reek, and that George Allen before the said felony was committed, in form aforesaid, to wit, on the 12th day of March, 1901. at Victoria in this colony, did feloniously counsel, procure, and command, through the agency of one Yeung Kun, the said Lo Tsoi, the said felony in manner and form aforesaid to do and commit.

The following jurors were empanelled (with two challenges), the first named as foreman:—

David Gow, R. N. Hubert, A. R. Lowe, D. S. Gubbay, Arthur Klein, G. G. J. Atzeuroth, and H. Höhnke,

The Acting Attorney-General (Mr. Pollock K.C.) instructed by Mr. Bowley, the Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and Mr. Francis. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) defended the prisoner.

Counsel for the Crown in opening detailed the facts concerning the outrage upon Mr. Reek, which have already appeared in these columns. He cited *Russell on Crimes* to show that it was not necessary to prove that the prisoner had any connection with the coolie who actually threw the vitriol. It was enough, counsel said, to show that it was done through an intermediary. The prosecutor had been employed in the Naval Yard for a period of 20 months.

Mr. Francis asked the Court to suggest to the Crown Counsel whether it was desirable to call Mr. Reek, as he was not the prosecutor. It was the Crown who had instituted the prosecution.

Counsel, continuing, said that Mr. Reek was the chief storekeeper in the Naval Yard, and it would appear that during the last 20 months Reek had had occasion some 12 times to find fault with the prisoner. The fact remained that the fault-finding had rankled in the prisoner's mind, and he employed Yeung Kun to commit the offence for which he stood indicted. Rightly or wrongly, it would be proved in evidence that the prisoner had entertained some grudge against Mr. Reek.

Counsel then went on to refer to what took place between Mr. Hays, of the firm of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, at which the prisoner was present. He said that the firm were engaged to defend Yeung Kun at the last Criminal Sessions, and Mr. Allen called on Mr. Hays and made a statement which would be produced. It was dictated to a shorthand clerk at the time, and he (Mr. Pollock) would put it to the jury that the prisoner attended upon Mr. Hays because he had taken a personal interest in the matter, and had been the moving spirit in the commission of the offence.

Evidence was then taken.

Yeung Kun said that prior to his conviction he had been employed for about ten years looking after the stores. It was his duty to get goods out of the store on receipt of orders. The prisoner gave him the orders. Allen was employed in the store a few years before he (witness) was, and was his immediate superior. The time prisoner first spoke to him regarding the assault upon Mr. Reek was 15th February last. He said, "Can you get a man to strike Mr. Reek" Witness replied, "Let me see about it, I will go and look for one." Then witness went to the blacksmith's shop, and asked Ah Pui to get a man. The prisoner again spoke to him on 4th March last, and asked him if he had succeeded in getting a man. He said, "No, I am not able to get one." Witness added, "It's very hard to get a man." About half past ten on the same day prisoner said to him, "There's an easy way," and gave witness a piece of blotting paper with some writing on it in English. He told witness to go and buy some "medicine water" and get a man to throw it on Mr. Reek. Witness then gave the paper to Cheung Yun to buy the "water." The latter went to Watson's Dispensary and returned, stating there was none for sale. Subsequently he returned with some "medicine water." That was on the same day, and on March 5th witness found Leung Pui, who went and got Cheung Fu. The latter refused to throw the water, and another man went and bought thirty cents' worth. On 14th March Yeung Pu found Lo Tsoi. They met somewhere near Wanchai at about 6 o'clock in the morning. Lo Tsoi promised then to throw the "water" on Mr. Reek. Witness then handed over to Lo Tsoi the bottle and gave him a cent to buy a bowl. Then they all walked down to the Praya. Shortly after six o'clock they saw Mr. Reek walking along the Praya. Lo Tsoi poured the "water" into the bowl, and he threw it upon Mr. Reek. Witness then went away. About 7 o'clock he went to work, and about 10 o'clock the prisoner gave him $10 to pay to Lo Tsoi. The prisoner said "Here, go and pay this to the man who threw the 'water.'" Witness then went to a tea-saloon, and there he met Leung Pu and Lo Tsoi. He handed Leung Pu the ten dollars with a request to pay it to Lo Tsoi. Witness had seen Lo Tsoi on 12th March, and at other times. On the former day witness met Lo Tsoi at his house. Witness spoke to the latter about the matter, and asked him whether he would do a certain thing which a foreigner wished him to do. He said, "A foreigner wants a man to throw 'medicine water" on a man, and is willing to pay $10. Will you do it?" Lo Tsoi said he was willing to do it, and asked when it was to be done. He (witness) replied, "Any time you like." Then he went away. On March 13th he again saw Lo Tsoi, and he promised to do it on the following day. He did not tell Lo Tsoi who the Englishman was. On their meeting Mr. Reek he pointed him out to Lo Tsoi, saying "That's the man." The prisoner never gave any reason why he wanted the "water" thrown, or said anything about the relations between them. He did say they were not on good terms with each other. The prisoner did not speak to him about it. Allen did, however, say that Mr. Reek was a bad man. Between 15th February and 4th March the prisoner asked him if he had succeeded in getting a man to strike Mr. Reek. The prisoner asked him two or three times, saying, "What about that matter? Anybody going to do it?" Witness was not No. 1 store coolie. There was a Chinaman between them.

Cross-examined—Lo Tsoi was every now and then employed in the Naval Yard as a coolie. About 100 outside coolies or so a day were employed in that way in March last. They left at 12 o'clock for dinner and resumed duty at half-past one. In February and March a great many of the coolies were told to return at 12.30, as they were busy. There was a lot of work to be done in connection with the store, and if a coolie did not return at 12.30 he got no pay for the day. Mr. Reek would refuse to pay the coolie, and substitute two for one, so that the man who worked half a day got no pay at all. Even one minute late he lost his pay for the day. Sometimes a man would go in late and work for the day; even then he lost his pay, as they had changed tickets. Mr. Blake was in the store before Mr. Reek, and the latter was much stricter. Mr. Reek was very strict indeed. Witness was in and out of the store all day. The prisoner had a little office of his own, or a small desk in No. 7 store room. Allen was also in charge of other storerooms, No. 12 D and No. 9. Leung Pu was a coolie frequently employed in the yard and so was Lo Tsoi, who was arrested from among a lot of coolies outside the gate. Cheung Yeu, the man who went to Watson's Dispensary, was also a coolie employed in the house in which he (witness) lived. Cheung Fu was another coolie sometimes employed in the yard. The coolies complained a great deal about Reek cutting them for being only one minute late. When the bell rings at 12 o'clock, they stopped work and as they went out they were searched, and it was sometime's more than a quarter of an hour before the last man got out, and then if the poor man did not turn up in time he lost his whole pay. Some of the coolies lived at Wanchai and some of them had no time to get their "chow chow." They used to go

without sometimes. As many as six would be late in the day. Witness spoke to his solicitor, Mr. Hays, about the prisoner while he was in gaol through an interpreter. Mr. Robinson, who defended him at the last sessions, visited him in the gaol with Mr. Hays on April 17th at about 4.30. Witness was not told that the prisoner had been to Mr. Hays' office. He was sure about that. The names of Europeans were mentioned, but before that he not said anything to any one upon the subject. Up to that time he had always said he was not guilty. At the interview at the gaol he was told he had to make a full statement, and he did so. The Chinese interpreter took it down in Chinese, and he afterwards read and signed it. He was not asked who had instigated him to do it. They (Mr. Hays and Mr. Robinson) asked him to tell the truth, and told him if he did the Judge would be willing to pass a lighter sentence. They did not say that the prisoner was willing to pay more money for witness's defence. Allen's name was not mentioned at all on that occasion. The prisoner's name did not appear in the paper which he signed. Witness simply mentioned a foreigner, but did not mention any names. He mentioned one only. He had known the prisoner for 15 or 16 years. He knew the Pong Tung Hing blacksmith shop, and he (witness) had a share in it. It had ceased working: it was old, but was still going on under another name. It was sold for under $200 to some of the old partners, and they changed the name. At the time he (witness) had $80 deposited with the prisoner. He gave it to the prisoner for safe keeping. He had a brother a partner in it. The shop had borrowed money from the prisoner, who was considered a very good man, and Chinese deposited money with the prisoner, and he (witness) had borrowed money from Allen. When he went to prison he sent his brother to the prisoner to ask him to help him as a friend, and he returned the $80. If Allen had advanced money the shop would repay it. He was sure he did not mention the name of Allen to Mr. Robinson or Mr. Hays. The prisoner had nothing to do with the throwing of the water. It was fixed up between the coolies in consequence of hatred against Mr. Reek. They were not satisfied with Mr. Reek, and if the latter had not been strict the water would never have been thrown. Witness was permanently employed in the Yard. Allen always lent money to Chinese. He knew Yu Kun Tai, and knew that the prisoner went security for him when he joined the police and lent him some money to buy clothes. Allen all along was a good man. Kwok Hing had also received kindness from the prisoner, for he had paid all that man's hospital expenses while he was sick. The paper which the prisoner gave him was written in English. He did not see the prisoner write it. It was on red blotting paper. He had not seen red before. White was always officially used. All the Chinese he had mentioned, except one man, had been employed in the Yard. The prisoner was a good man and did not like to see the coolies badly treated, and he (witness) presumed that was the reason the "water" was thrown. Prisoner never gave him any reason. Prisoner said—"Get some 'medicine water' and just touch his clothing and sprinkle a little on his face." He did not say a foreigner was in it to get a lighter sentence. He never thought he would get off easier for it. The Chinese officer who arrested him said—"You must say something against Allen, and the judge will give you a lighter sentence." Then he asked how much less and the Chinaman said two years. That's the reason he mentioned the foreigner, for had that not been said he would not have done so.

Mr. Francis: Then Allen had really nothing to do with it.

Witness: It was the coolies who moved in the matter first.

Mr. Francis: Then Allen had nothing to do with it. Is that not so?

Witness: Yes!

Re-examined: Allen lent money without interest. The prisoner had no share in the shop or the profits. Mr. Reek once cut his (witness) wages about six months ago. Mr. Hays saw him twice in gaol before his trial, and when he mentioned the word "foreigner" he meant the prisoner. He did not mention the name of Allen.

On the Court rising for tiffin, Mr. Francis asked his Lordship if he would suggest to the Counsel for the Crown the necessity of considering the position of the case during the tiffin.

On resuming, the Acting Attorney General elected to go on, and

Lo Tsoi was called. He said the first time Yeung Kun spoke to him was on the evening of March 12th between 7 and 8 o'clock. Witness lived in Jardine's Bazaar, and it was there that Yeung Kun saw him. Yeung Kun said there was an old grudge existing between a foreigner and a storekeeper, and he asked witness if he would throw some "water" on the storekeeper. He answered "It's very serious," and then Yeung Kun asked him to go and do it, and he (witness) was offered ten dollars. Witness said "I'm not going to do it," and Yeung Kin replied "You need not be afraid about it, and I will engage a lawyer to help you." Witness then asked, "What sort of medicine water?" and Yeung Kin said it would not do any harm; there would be no fear about it. That was on March 12th, but he (witness) did not promise to do it then; it was arranged that they should meet the following night. The next day Yeung Kun went to his house.

Mr. Francis here rose and asked his Lordship to consider, after the cross-examination of the last witness, whether that witness was the prisoner's agent. If the Court considered he was, then the evidence of the present witness was admissible. If not, it was inadmissible.

His Lordship: I have indicted very clearly that the evidence is very unsatisfactory, but I can't stop the case; let it go to the jury now. It is for the jury to decide.

Continuing, the witness said that on the morning of the outrage he met Yeung Kun and others in Ship Street, and they went to a lane, where a cent was given to him with which he bought a bowl. They walked on to the Praya, and Yeung Kun gave him some "medicine water." The bottle was about half full. Yeung Kun told him the storekeeper would pass by about a quarter-past six. They were walking about ten feet from each other when Yeung Kun said, "As soon as he gets here, throw the water on him, and run away." He hesitated a little and Yeung Kun told him he need not be afraid, for he would be safe. When Reek approached, Yeung Kun said "That's the man, with a straw hat on." At his (Yeung Kun's) request he poured the water in the bowl, while the former walked under the verandah. Then as Mr. Reek approached he poured the water, and ran away. He was subsequently arrested by a police constable at Wanchai.

By the Court: He knew the prisoner since he was first employed in the Yard, and knew his name was Allen.

Mr. Wild, Assistant Govenment Analyst, deposed to the stains upon the clothing produced being caused by nitric acid.

Francis George Reek, leading man of stores in the Naval Yard, said he had been so since June, 1899. The prisoner was a storehouseman, and witness was his immediate superior. Witness had had on about a dozen occasions to find fault with the prisoner, principally about things being out of place. Witness never reported the prisoner. Witness had formerly lived in the same house as the prisoner, but on different flats, at Sea View, Wanchai.

His Lordship—Was the prisoner the master of the house?

Witness—I did not get it from him. He only lived in the same house.

Mr. Francis—The house is his, my Lord.

Witness—I took it through a man named O'Brien. As far as I am aware the prisoner did his work fairly well. I cannot think of anybody who would do me that evil. I was not aware of any one who bore me such a grudge as to do a thing like that. I have not been attended by the doctor for a week. I still bear the mark on my face where the nitric acid struck me. I put my hand up, and what would have gone into my eyes went on my hand and burnt it. I have never quarrelled with any one since I have been in the colony, European or Chinese.

Cross-examined: I came here to take up my position having previously been in the Naval Service at home. The fault-finding with the prisoner was on trivial matters, and the prisoner always put the thing right afterwards. I was always on friendly terms with the prisoner, as far as my position was concerned. I had no reason to think that he bore me any ill-will. I had no suspicion of any one, and, as far as I'm aware, the prisoner's work was satisfactorily done. I told the magistrate the prisoner was a good officer. About 12 months ago the prisoner was reported; he went before the Commodore and was fined a day's pay. I lived in the same house as the prisoner for eleven months.

By the Court: I never reported him myself.

John Hays (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) said he was retained to defend Yeung Kun, and saw him in the gaol.

Counsel for the Crown then proceeded to examine the witness as to what took place at the interview. Mr. Francis objected, and his Lordship supported the objection, holding that if any agency existed, it had passed at that time.

Continuing, the witness said he had two or three interviews at the goal, and saw the prisoner on April 17th at the firm's offices. Allen was shown into the office by a clerk. Allen said: "I understand you are defending a man named Yeung Kun at the Criminal Sessions." Witness said he was, and Allen then asked "Are all your fees in connection with the matter paid?" Witness replied, "Thank you, they have." Allen said "If you require any more fees I will pay them," and he (witness) said "You need not trouble; all the fees have been paid." Allen then said, "Supposing you get Yeung Kun acquitted at the Sessions, you will want more fees?" Witness said, "That's what we call taking a case up on spec. If we take a case, it's a question of win or lose." Allen again assured him that if the firm wanted any more fees he would be happy to pay them, and he (witness) said, "We don't want any more fees." Allen then said "The names of some Europeans have been mentioned in the matter and I said, "Yes they have."

Mr. Hays: That's not good grammar, my Lord, but it's what I said. I told him names had been mentioned, and they were professional secrets or confidences, that's the word, my Lord. He then asked me if I had any means to make Yeung Kun hold his tongue. I said I could not make him hold his tongue. "I can't put my hand in front of his mouth and stop him speaking. I can advise him how to plead on his trial at the Sessions." He then said he hoped the names of Europeans would not come out and hoped that I would do my best to keep the names of Europeans back. I said I could make no such promise; if it was necessary to bring out the names of Europeans they should be brought out. I told him I was bound to do so in the interests of justice, but I, at the same time, assured him if it was not necessary to bring out their names, they would not be brought out. I asked him how it was he was taking such an interest in a case of this kind which concerned a coolie, and he replied he had known him for some time, and that he (Yeung Kun) and Reek had worked together for such a long time that he took an interest in him. He then said—"It would be rather hard on me to have my name dragged in after I have found the money, or funds." That was all that passed, and Allen went away.

Cross-examined—I did not jump to the conclusion that Allen had anything to do with the vitriol. I had my suspicions about it. Very grave ones too.

Mr. Francis—Was that the reason you dictated it to the shorthand writer?

Mr. Hays—It was *prima facie* an incriminating statement made to me in the course of my business by a man who was not my client. I thought it advisable to take it down.

Had you already at that time briefed Mr. Robinson for the defence?—No, not formally.

His Lordship—You had not seen him.

Mr. Hays—Oh yes, I had, my Lord.

Was it in consequence of the statement made by the prisoner that you hurried Mr. Robinson up to the gaol that evening to interview your client?—Partly.

What was the other reason?—It was the reason that we had heard the name of Allen mentioned by Yeung Kun himself in the Victoria Gaol. Coupled with the statement by Allen the defendant, that made the thing look so remarkably suspicious.

Tell us the name of the Europeans who were mentioned?—Allen and Reek.

Then you did not give him a truthful answer to the question when he asked you if any names had been mentioned in the matter?—I did not do it with any intention to catch him in his words. I told him the names of Europeans had been mentioned.

What other names of Europeans had been mentioned in connection with the crime?—None. So far as I know I have said exactly the same as I said in the Police Court. I have no object in not doing so. There was a special object in going to the goal to interview my client at that time, namely, that there was another person implicated in it, as I thought. I thought it was my duty to see what my client had to say in the matter before I advised him how to plead on the following day at the Sessions.

Did you or did you not urge him to confess and admit that Allen was at the back of him?—I did not urge him at all.

What did you say?—I told him this statement was in our possession and made by Allen; that it bore out and corroborated all the details that he himself had given on April 3rd, and that being the case it clearly showed that there was somebody at the back of it.

What brought you up to the goal on April 17th?—A chair. (Laughter.)

Don't you be impertinent, Mr. Hays; you know perfectly well I did not ask you how you went up.—I went there because I wanted to see my client.

Impertinence won't serve your part, or that of the prosecution.—I wanted to find out the real truth with reference to the remark which Yeung Kun had let fall at the Police Court at the previous hearing. He said within the hearing of one of the warders, "I shall tell the whole truth about the matter," and after being told that I thought there must be something at the back of the whole thing, and I urged him to tell the truth. I said, "I think it will be better for you to make a clean breast of the whole thing."

Did you ask him any questions as to whether any person had been stirring him to get this evidence?—Yes, and he told me a man by the name of Allen in the Naval Yard had on various occasions visited him and asked him in Chinese to strike Reek or to find somebody to strike him, and that he had given him instructions to buy corrosive fluid. I told him that if he made a clean breast of the whole thing and stated that he had been incited to do it by another person, it might have some effect on his sentence.

Detective Inspector Cuthbert proved the arrest, and

Mr. Francis addressed the jury for the defence. He said that the prisoner, he thought he might safely say, had been charged upon the most slender evidence which could ever have been brought before a criminal court. The case for the Crown was that he had induced Lo Tsoi to commit the offence through his agent, Yeung Kun, the first witness who had been called for the prosecution, and that case depended wholly and entirely upon the evidence of that witness and upon his evidence alone. The Crown had done in the present case as they always unnecessarily did; they had endeavoured to show the prisoner had some motive and grudge against Mr. Reek in instigating Lo Tsio to throw the fluid. He (Mr. Francis) thought it was absolutely impossible to get a jury to suppose and believe that any man in his senses would go out of his way to pay money to a Chinaman to inflict an injury upon another European unless he had some grudge or ill-will against him, and it was absolutely impossible to suppose that he (the prisoner) having no grudge or ill-feeling against another, would either pay a Chinaman to injure him or get someone else to do it. Mr. Reek had stood in the box, and had given the prisoner an excellent character. His (counsel's) client had been directly under Mr. Reek, and the relations between them had been most cordial, and there was no earthly reason why he should have committed the crime imputed to him. Counsel then went on to deal with the evidence. Dealing with Mr. Hays' statement in the box, Mr. Francis said that it differed materially from that which had been given by that gentleman in the Police Court and in the box that day. Mr. Hays' evidence would make them believe that Allen had gone to Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master's other than on his own account, whereas he went there at the request of Yeung Kun's father and brother, but even if the prisoner did go there with any other intention, and had even known that some harm was to be done to Mr. Reek before the offence was committed, that did not drag him within the pale of the criminal law. Counsel submitted that upon Yeung Kun's evidence the Crown must stand or fall, and it was of such a nature that it could not be relied upon for a moment, and he asked that his client be discharged.

His Lordship in summing up read the indictment, and the law on the subject. The story told by the first witness for the Crown was a very simple and plain one, but there were one or two difficulties which encompassed it In the first place there was the question of motive. It was a very serious crime to throw nitric acid upon another and was looked upon with great severity. It was a dastardly offence, and one which merited the fullest punishment. They (the jury) would have to consider whether there was any reason why the prisoner should have embarked upon that secret and disastrous course, and seek by every means in his power to secure the carrying out of that serious crime. Could they imagine that a man like the prisoner, holding a responsible position in the Naval Yard, with good service and character, would bind himself hands and feet to the coolies in the Yard and play into the hands of the coolies for the purpose of gratifying a personal spite. They could at once see how dangerous, unwise, and imprudent was the step which had been taken, if it was taken at all. Going through the evidence his Lordship said that it amounted to this; if they rejected the evidence of Yeung Kun, or failed to believe in his narrative at first, and his shifty story afterwards, then the prosecution of the Crown fell to the ground. Then there came the question of accomplices, and although it was an offence to become an accomplice to any crime, yet it had been the practice for many years for judges to tell juries that the evidence of accomplices did not weigh much unless it was strongly corroborated. Reverting to the point he had urged with reference to Yeung Kun's evidence, if they found on the other hand that his story was such that some amount of credence could be placed to it, then they had to consider the remaining evidence as to corroboration of the story. As far as regarded Mr. Hays' evidence he (his Lordship) was quite satisfied that Mr. Hays could have made no mistake in any way. He was a professional gentleman and had no reason for doing so, and he (his Lordship) thought it was more satisfactory to take the statement dictated to the shorthand writer at the time. To his Lordship's mind the most impertant part in the statement referred to was the mention of the names of Europeans, and he was bound to say after reading it carefully that those names were ambiguous. They might mean that the names were being brought out in the commission of this crime, but they might also mean that some Europeans at the Yard were aware of the offence, or they might mean that they did not want their names brought up as having known about the matter in any way. As Mr. Francis had stated, even if the prisoner knew they were going to commit the offence it would not be criminal. That was sound law which must be maintained. He was sure they would weigh the evidence of Yeung Kun carefully, for if they did not find that he spoke the truth they must reject his evidence, and then the case for the Crown fell to the ground. If they thought that there was one tittle of doubt the prisoner should have the benefit of it. He left the case confidently in their hands, feeling convinced that the main issue would be kept in view, that of the evidence of the first witness. If that failed then the Crown had lost their case and the prisoner was entitled to his discharge.

The jury without retiring returned a verdict of "Not guilty." It was received with applause, which was at once suppressed.

The Court was densely crowded the whole day, and considerable public interest was manifested in the proceedings.

(Before His Honour A. G. Wise and a Jury).

ROBBERY.

Leung Muk and Li Koi were charged with robbery near the "Rock of Love" on the Bowen Road, on 9th April last, when Ho Tsing and others were put in fear and had a jacket stolen from them.

Mr. Robinson took the place of the Acting Attorney-General.

The prisoners denied the charge, and the following gentlemen were were empanelled as jury—Messrs. C. J. Klinck, Jiro Itami, H. E. Moon, R. Dickson, C. D. Danenberg and A. Cameron.

After evidence, the first prisoner was found guilty and sent to gaol for seven years with hard labour, and ordered to receive 20 strokes. The second prisoner was found not guilty.

BANISHMENT.

Lam Ki Kok was charged with disobeying an order of banishment.

He pleaded not guilty, and was tried before the same jury that acted in the previous case.

He was found guilty, and sent to prison for a year.

Tuesday, 21st May.

Criminal Sessions.

Before His Honour Sir John Carrington, Kt., C.M.G. (Chief Justice).

A DEEP WATER BAY PIRACY.

Cheung Chik Ko, Cheung Chai, Cheung, Leung Tai and Cheung Kwai Chaw, were placed in the dock indicted that being armed with offensive weapons, to wit, a revolver and a knife, in and upon one Cheung U, did feloniously steal and carry away 10 fishing nets, 150 catties of fish, 3 pieces of lead, and a fishing line.

The Acting Attorney-General appeared for the Crown (instructed by Mr. Bowley, the Crown Solicitor) and Mr. Robinson represented the defendant.

The following Jurors were empanelled (with one challenge—a Chinese):—Messrs. C. W. Sherrington, A. dos Remedios, E. M. H. Schubart, W. A. H. Otto, D. Harvey, J. S. Perry, and C. E. Meligny.

Mr. Pollock, in detailing the circumstances connected with the alleged crime, stated that Cheung Wu was the "skipper" of a fishing junk, and after a day's haul dropped anchor in Deep Water Bay. The prisoners came along in another junk, lowered a sampan, and boarded the fishing boat. Two went on deck, and the others remained in the sampan. After holding up the "skipper" and the mate they seized the nets and fish and made off.

Counsel for the defence cross-examined the witnesses for the Crown at considerable length, with a view of showing that the prisoners were fishers, and that the prosecutor, with others, had cut their lines. A general *melee* followed, which ended in their arrest. The arms they had, counsel stated, were those for which they had taken out a licence.

Wednesday, 22nd April.

Criminal Sessions.

Before His Honour Sir John Carrington, Kt., C.M.G. (Chief Justice).

THE DEEP WATER BAY PIRACY.

The further hearing of the indictment against the three men who were alleged to have been concerned in the Deep Water Bay piracy was resumned yesterd y.

After a severe cross-examination of the Crown witnesses, and the production of the fishing nets which were alleged to have been cut, the jury found the prisoners guilty, and they were each sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, with 20 strokes of the birch during the first week of their incarceration.

This closed the Sessions.

REVIEW.

Japanese Plays and Playfellows. By OSMAN EDWARDS. London: William Heinemann. DECORATED with twelve coloured plates by Japanese artists, Mr. Osman Edwards's volume is a very handsome volume. Handsome volumes on China or Japan are not, of course, rare; but *Japanese Plays and Playfellows* is a far better book than the majority of these. In actual time, the author only spent six months in the country, but he had studied the language with native teachers previously, and was at least well-read in the literature about Japan. He concluded from his studies, he tells us, that theatrical matters had been less fully described than any other, and therefore devoted most attention to them during his stay in Japan. Like so many European travellers in the Islands he pays also no little attention to the subject of Japanese women. In fact he apologises to "austere critics" for so doing. Those who do not suffer from austerity, however, will find nothing to blame in Mr. Edwards's treatment on the question. It is refreshingly frank and free alike from flabby sentimentality and from cant—a welcome change, indeed, from the writings of the ordinary globe-trotter. The scope of the book can perhaps be fairly judged from the chapter headings, which are as follows:—"Behind the Scenes," "Religious Plays," "Popular Plays" "Geisha and Cherry-Blossom," "Vulgar Songs," "Taking the Waters," "Playing with Fire," "Afternoon Calls," and "The Scarlet Lady." The opening chapter does not, as might be thought, deal with stage affairs, but mainly with the relations of Japan with the rest of the world. As a sensible and well-written exposition of affairs we can commend it. Mr. Edwards does not shut his eyes to the unpleasant side, as put forward so strongly and so frequently by the European resident in Japan. In one of the concluding paragraphs of the chapter in question he says:

"I have taken a bird's eye view of the Japanese as they appear to the resident alien, because his protesting voice is generally drowned in the joyful ejaculations of passing travellers. I have put aside for the moment my own prepossessions, which were only strengthened by intercourse with natives of every class, in order that the dark side of the shield might not be veiled. Dishonest traders aided by tortuous enactments, and mistrustful teachers, suspicious of Western propaganda, insubordinate inferiors and incompetent officials—all these constitute grave stumbling-blocks to happiness. But it would not be fair to ignore the facts which promise a brighter future. Then are many firms whose integrity is unquestioned, many journalists who try to stem the current of national misunderstanding by sagacious counsel. Experience and greater knowledge are sure to prove wholesome correctives. The anti-foreign bias, though real and formidable, is based on the fear of half-understood eventualities. Closer intercourse and wider education will cause wisdom to spread down from the rulers to the ruled, who are not yet on familiar terms with our conceptions of trade and government."

With the lighter portion of *Japanese Plays and Playfellows* we do not propose to deal at length. The book is one which must be read to be appreciated properly, and quotation cannot do it justice. The author treats gracefully the subjects on which he touches, and under the charm of things Japanese he does not descend to the gush of the hurrying tourist. He has produced an excellent work quite the most entertaining which we have read on the subject of Japan for long.

We are indebted to Messrs. Kelly & Walsh for the copy of the volume under notice.

According to a dispatch from Shanhaikwan to the *Asahi*, administrative offices have been established by the Russian authorities at Harbin, Kirin, Mukden and Honchun, with branches at Talien, Hinking, and fourteen other places. The directors of the offices are army officers, who are provided with civil and military staffs. The authorities have also issued some new regulations for the collection of taxes. This is what is called by the Russian Government "quietly awaiting the course of events," a Japanese contemporary suggests.

WATSON'S MINERAL WATER FACTORY.

A MODEL ESTABLISHMENT.

Returning from West Point on the 22nd inst., and feeling rather thirsty, we told the perspiring ricksha puller to "man-man," and strolled into Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co.'s mineral water factory for a "cooler."

"Fair-sized building you have here," we observed to Mr. Davidson, the genial manager of the concern, as we sipped a deliciously cool lemonade.

"Pretty fair," he returned. "Do you care to have a look round?"

We assented, and Mr. Davidson kindly volunteered to act as guide.

The godown in which Messrs. A. S. Watson manufacture their mineral waters is a large one, fully 365 feet long and about 60 feet broad. Along each side of the white-washed walls, and about fifteen feet distant from them, runs a row of square pillars, also whitewashed, which support the raftered roof. A number of open windows on both sides of the building admit a current of air refreshingly cool in contrast to the stifling heat outside.

NO. 1 ROOM.

No. 1 Room is the factory proper, and presents one great scene of busy life. Here practically the whole business of the godown is transacted. The water from which the minerals are manufactured is forced into a pressure filter, and runs through two coils of piping from a marble-lined tank into a steel super-saturator. The water is all the time charged with ice, but does not come into direct contact with the ice, so that risk of possible contamination, small though that risk may be, is totally avoided. From the supersaturator the water is carried into a metal cylinder driven by steam to the pressure required. This cylinder, which is the patent of Hayward, Tyler and Company, London, is capable of keeping eight automatic bottling machines going. At the top of No. 1 Room are placed two generators for the making of gas, and one large gasometer. One of the generators has been in use for three years, and is in as good working order now as on the day it was erected. The manufacture of syrup is also engaged in at the factory, and on an elevation at the upper end of No. 1 Room, on the opposite side from the generators and gasometer, are stored rows of large jars containing the syrup, all carefully stopped with wooden covers. In the centre of the room, on each side of a passage, stand the bottle-washing and bottle-corking machines. The bottles are thus washed automatically, and each one is carefully examined to ensure that it is perfectly clean before it is handed over to an attendant to be filled. As to the bottle-corking machine, the coolie has simply to feed it. The machine bottles and corks at the rate of between eight and nine bottles a minute, and keeps a second coolie constantly engaged in fixing on wire. Occasionally a bottle bursts, but the attendants are protected from injury by iron guards fixed to the machine. At the machine for filling stopper bottles stands a worker with his head enclosed in a mask and with both hands covered with leather gloves to protect him from similar possible injury. In No. 1 Room great racks have been erected for the storing of the minerals after the bottles are labelled, this latter operation keeping about a dozen coolies continuously employed. The flooring of this room, as is that of the others is of concrete, and along it run a number of drains which effectually clear away the waste water accompanying the manufacture of the minerals.

NO. 2 ROOM.

Here is erected a four h.p. Tangie patent engine for the supplying of the motive power to the machinery in No. 1 Room. The engine has been in use for many years, but the care expended in keeping it clean has left it to-day in as good working order as when it entered the factory. Three large cement-lined brick filters of the old style, working on an unique drip system, are built into the wall, and are utilised when that step is rendered necessary through the cutting off of the supply of water from the main. Each filter is capable of holding five feet of water. Further up the engine-room is conducted the packing work connected with the up-country and outport trade, and at the top a staff of carpenters is kept busy making racks and cases for the reception of the bottles.

NO. 3 ROOM.

In this division of the godown a large number of coolies are employed in the checking of returns from outport trade. Upstairs are dry-stored all the hundred-and-one things connected with the business of the factory.

The factory employs a Chinese staff of about 80, and is under the direct supervision of Mr. Davidson. Everything about the whole place is kept thoroughly clean. In a word, Messrs. A. S. Watson's mineral water factory at West Point fully deserves the title of a model establishment.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

From H.E. Major-General W. J. Gascoigne's letter, forwarding to H.E. the Governor the report of the Commandant's report on the training of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps in 1900, we make the following extracts:—

I am glad to see that the numerical strength of the Corps has attained the highly creditable total of 366 of all ranks; a strength that I hope may be maintained, but, I think, need not be increased.

"E," the Engineer Company, has done specially useful work in assisting the Royal Engineers in working the Electric Light Installations. Major Mould, R.E., speaks very highly of the attainments of some of the men, but of others he says they have put in very few attendances and require more training. As very highly trained men are required for these duties, I hope that the Company will make a point of maintaining a superior standard of efficiency in this branch of technical military training.

The Commandant states that no Rifle Range was at the disposal of the Corps. No application for a range was made, and I may say that, if made, a range would have been allotted to him, for I hold that volunteers should be proficients in rifle-shooting.—A Revolver Range is situated near the Racquet Court, and could very easily have been made available if an application had been made for it.—I hope that next autumn Stonecutters' may be at the service of the Corps for its Annual Camp of Instruction.

At the parade for my Annual Inspection, I am glad to say that the numbers attending were good, an increase over that of last year, although I had again to call attention to the fact that there were too many "Absent without leave." I understand that the majority of these absentees had left the Colony, either permanently or for a few months. In either case leave should have been applied for.

The parade itself was good. The men were steady in the ranks; the arms clean; the clothing of uniform pattern; and the movements executed showed a marked improvement over the two previous occasions when I have inspected this Corps. I am satisfied that the Corps has taken itself seriously and is anxious to show that it is a reliable factor in the defence of the Colony.

"D" INFANTRY CO.

The monthly shoot of the above Company was held at Kowloon on Sunday last. There was a good attendance of members. Lieut. Skinner scored his first win on the "A" Class Cup, Privt. Gillings and Privt. Auld having a like success in the "B" and "C" classes respectively. The following are some of the scores:—

"A" CLASS.

	200 yds.	500 yds.	600 yds.	Handi-cap.	Total.
* Lieut. Skinner ...	22	27	33	12	94
* Privt. Horley	28	31	30	2	91
Privt. Watson	26	35	29	—	90
Capt. Forbes	25	25	26	12	88

B CLASS.

	200	500	600	H'cap.	Tl.
* Privt. Gillings ...	26	24	21	—	71
* Privt. Macpherson	14	19	25	5	63
Privt. Ferguson ...	21	19	15	5	60

C CLASS.

	200	500	600	Total.
* Privt. Auld	24	20	12	56
Capt. Lochead	29	17	9	55

* Winners of Spoons.

HOCKEY.

The hockey match between the Officers, R.A., and the Indian Brigade at Kowloon came off on Saturday, and resulted, after a close and exciting fight, in a victory for the Indian Brigade by 1 goal to nil. The game throughout was characterised by a display of dash and energy, which for the time of year was most creditable.

The Thursday previous, the Indian Brigade had a friendly encounter with the Siege Train, in which, after a good game, the latter came off victors by 3 goals (2 obtained from penalty bullies) to 1.

YOKOHAMA RACES.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Taipeh, 14th May.

The winners at to-day's meeting (second day) at the Nippon Race Club at Yokohama, as telegraphed here, are :—

Champagne Challenge Cup (Walers 1901) 1 mile	Mr. Hugo's *The Orb* (gelding)
Nanking Stakes (Subscription China Ponies) 1 mile	Mr. Iris' *Aranami*
Adelaide Cup (all horses, winners of 2 races excluded, 1 mile	Mr. Hugo's *The Crown* *
Brisbane Cup (Countrybreds and Walers) 1 mile	Mr. Russia's *Mira*
Ladies' Purse (China Ponies) 1 mile	Mr. Tytherleigh's *Aberdeen*
New South Wales Cup (Walers) 1½ mile	Mr. Sphinx's *Fourée*
The Yokohama Derby (All horses) 1½ mile	Mr. Avis's *Hawfinch*
Peking Cup (Subscription China Ponies) 1½ mile	Mr. Russia's *Onrod*

* Late *Truth*.

GENERAL GASELEE.

An article on General Gaselee appears in the *Daily News* by Mr. Frederick Coleman, in which he states :—

Lieutenant-General Sir Alfred Gaselee is not only an experienced soldier, but a far-seeing and able diplomat as well. The work which was placed in his hands when he was sent to China last year and given command of the British forces in that part of the world was of such character as would necessitate the exercise, on his part, of the combined military knowledge of the soldier and the judical ability of the statesman. The General arrived at Tientsin in the morning. By night we heard many a story of his indignation at the lack of preparation. The statement that the Legations could not have held out forty-eight hours longer than they did calls forth much criticism as being exaggerated, yet it was made by certain men among the besieged who generally know what they are talking about. At all events, General Gaselee was responsible for the arrival of the Allies in Peking at the date they finally did reach that city, which reflects much credit on his action in pushing the expedition forward, whether or not its arrival a week later would have achieved the same result.

So much for General Gaselee's dash and enterprise when such characteristics are called upon. But important as military skill is to military operation, it was not more so in China last year than were coolness, sound judgment, and tact. More than once during the march to Peking, the days of preparation for it, and the days which followed its successful termination, did the judicial ability of the General make itself felt in international councils. In General Barrow, General Gaselee had a Chief of Staff of rare judgment, and one who has laboured hard and well to assist his superior in the arduous duties of the Chinese campaign.

I remember seeing General Gaselee ride down the front of the British line with General Lineveitch, the Russian Commander-in-Chief, on the morning of Aug. 28, just prior to the historical triumphal entry into the Forbiddden City. General Lineveitch is an old man, with white hair and moustache, a face of singular strength, perfect seat in the saddle, and an altogether magnificent appearance. As the two Generals passed down the lines of the Indian contingent, of which General Gaselee was so proud, it was a noble sight. His keen eyes lighted with conscious pride at the excellent appearance of his command, his fine figure showed at its best advantage on horseback, and the well-worn expression came to the minds of every Anglo-Saxon, "He certainly looks every inch a soldier." His officers are very fond of him. He is genial, and easy to approach and converse with. His manner is simple and unassuming. One talks with the General but a moment before becoming positive that he is an eminently just and good man, as well as a wise one.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

In a letter to the *Daily Express* Mr. Stafford Ransome writes :—

It had been my firm conviction that at no time during the last three years has war between Japan and Russia been imminent. From rumours I had heard before arriving in Japan this time I began to imagine that my conviction would have to undergo a change, for everyone was talking of the "Kokumin Doumeikuai," a political party which had been formed for the purpose of checking Russian aggression in Manchuria ; and the old fable of Japan being in that condition which is known as "spoiling for a fight" was revived. Its leaders were men of standing ; and the supporters of the Government found themselves shoulder to shoulder with influential Oppositionists, and the president of the party was no less a personage than Prince Konoye. The object of the "Kokumin Doumeikuai" is to make impossible the annexation of Corea by Russia. That is the beginning and the end of Japanese policy as far as Russia is concerned ; and Japan will be able to effect this when the time comes, because the heart of the nation will be in the work and because she understands her subject.

There are people who have suggested that a compact should be entered into to the effect that in return for Russia having a free hand in Manchuria Japan should have a corresponding advantage in Corea. Such an arrangement would suit Japan perfectly, were it not that Japan has fully grasped the fact that a treaty made with Russia at the present day is no more likely to be respected by that country than is a treaty made with China by the authorities of the Tsung-li Yamên. It is for this reason that Japan feels that the only means of safeguarding Corea is to protest, and to protest vehemently, against the Russian absorption of Manchuria. From Japan's point of view, she is bound to sacrifice everything to the extent of going to war with Russia in order to preserve her influence with Corea. Russia would never care to try to take Corea if in doing so she had to face the fact that the price she would have to pay for it would be the annihilation of her Pacific fleet and of her ports. In all probability Japan could accomplish this single-handed with her present equipment. Japan does not want to possess Corea to-day, because the business of holding it would be a heavy tax on her military strength, and the governing of it would be more than she would care to undertake just now. Japan will not fight Russia unless the integrity of Corea is menaced, and my contention that there is no reason to suppose that it will come to war just now is based on the assumption that Great Britain will, in her own interests, be forced to aid and abet Japan in checking Russian aggression in Manchuria.

On the morning of the 10th inst. the Siamese Royal yacht *Maha Chakrkri*, escorted by the Siamese gunboats *Sigret* and *Bali*, arrived at Singapore from Bangkok, and H. E. Sir Frank Swettenham, and the captain of H.M.S. *Rosario* (as Senior Naval Officer) paid a visit to H. M. King Chulalongkorn on board the yacht. Later the Royal party landed and went to Government House. In the afternoon the King visited the Botanical Gardens with the Siamese Consul General, while the Queen visited the General Hospital and also went for a drive. On the 11th their Majesties sailed for Java. They were expected to return to Singapore in about five weeks' time, on their way back to Siam.

BURMA'S RELATIONS WITH SIAM.

The *Bangkok Times* says the Siamese authorities received news from the British State of Kengtung (Northern Shan States) that Chinese posters had been placed in a number of towns in that State threatening its invasion by Yunnanese soldiers. Another rumour was to the effect that 3,000 Yunnanese had already invaded Kengtung and that 30,000 more were on the way. This State lies between Yunnan and northern Siam and it is natural such rumours, baseless as they may be, should occasion concern to our neighbours, but, according to our information in Burma, there never has been any apprehension of the Chinese beyond the north-eastern frontier adopting a hostile attitude. There has been a considerable increase in recent years in the trade between Yunnan and northern Siam which passes through the Kengtung State. This piece of territory between the Salween and the Mekong, on which France has had her eye, is important as being the highway of a growing trade between south-eastern China and Siam. The Siamese are engaged in constructing a road to the frontier of Kengtung, and it is said that within a year the northern telegraph line in Siam will reach the same boundary. There is talk even of a railway to the Kengtung border. On the Burma side we can, by the construction of roads, telegraphs and railways to connect with such undertakings in Siam, encourage the Siamese to promote closer trade relationship between the two countries. A few years ago Lord Salisbury, when asked by wealthy financiers at home if the State would guarantee railway projects capitalised with British money in Siam and south-eastern China, said the government would not undertake to meddle with any project beyond the borders of the empire. As Siam has now awakened to the necessity of improving her communications, the financiers alluded to might induce the Government to guarantee railways in Burma constructed for the purpose of forming a connection with the proposed lines in Siam.—*Rangoon Times*.

A WONDERFUL STORY.

We have now a wonderful statement. It comes by a roundabout channel, having been originally published by the *Patrie* of Paris, then copied by the *Franco-Californian*, which is said to be the French organ of San Francisco, and finally it is reproduced in Tokyo journals. The tale is that the injury which incapacitated Mr. Yang Yu for further conference with the Russian Foreign Office about Manchuria, was due to the Chinese diplomat's having been thrown down stairs by the servants of Count Lamsdorf. Mr. Yang having insulted the Count at an interview when the Manchurian treaty was under discussion, the Count ordered his domestics to put him out of the apartment, and they, employing more zeal than discretion, used such violence that Yang was precipitated to the bottom of the stairs and received a severe injury on the head. Such is the "yarn," and those that repeat it in Tokyo call attention to the circumstance that the *Patrie* is strongly pro-Russian and that the *Franco-Californian* is a constant advocate of the Franco-Russian Alliance, so that neither journal would be likely to spread an injurious rumour of such a kind were it not founded on fact. Our Tokyo contemporaries pay an undeservedly high compliment to these journals' respect for truth. When newspapers of the *Patrie* type are shown to set truth or patriotism above the gain of publishing a sensational story, journalism will have entered a more wholesome atmosphere than it now breathes. There are evidently folks whose gullibility has no limits, and so long as that is the case there will be other folks to cater for them. What disappoints us in that any lie, however clumsy or ridiculous, should interfere with the credit due to Mr. Yang for inventing an admirable novelty in diplomacy. Whether the Chinese Minister got a fit of apoplexy or whether he precipitated himself over the barristers, the extraordinary timeliness of the incident raised it to the plane of genius, and it is too bad that such puerile canards as that of the *Franco-Californian* should be imported into such a context.—*Japan Mail*.

HONGKONG.

The British gunboat *Lizard* arrived from Swatow late on the 2?th inst.

The U.S.S. *Newark* left on the 20th inst. for America.

Mr. U. Farrell has been temporarily appointed Inspector of Nuisances.

Mr. W. A. Rublee has been recognised as Consul-General at Hongkong for the United States of America.

H.M. the King has been pleased to approve of Mr. Otto Gumprecht as Consul of Germany at Hongkong.

On the 23rd inst., the French gunboat *Styx* arrived from Canton and the U.S. transport *Iris* from Yokohama.

There was a landslip on the 22nd inst. at Glenealy, slightly injuring the water-main. By the prompt action of the waterworks' overseers, however, the damage was repaired without any material stoppage of the supply.

Mr. J. Cummisky, the European whose death is recorded elsewhere, was buried at the Roman Catholic cemetery on the 18th inst., a very large number of friends and of fellow-workers at H.M. Naval Yard attending the last rites.

Apart from the 122 plague cases last week, the only communicable disease notified as occurring in the Colony was enteric fever, of which there were two cases (Chinese, one in Victoria), both of which ended fatally. 103 of the plague cases were in Victoria, 19 outside.

The Rev. G. J. Williams, pastor of the Union Church, is leaving this week on a five weeks' holiday in Japan. He expects to be back by the last Sunday in June, and to resume his duties on the first Sunday in July. His place will be taken by the Rev. H. J. Stevens, of the London Missionary Society, Canton.

The proprietor of the Salon Richlieu hair-dressing establishment, 9, Beaconsfield Arcade, which was gutted by fire on Tuesday night, the 21st inst. estimates the damage at $29,000. The premises are insured with the Commercial Union for $25,000. The cause of the outbreak has not yet been ascertained.

The concert given by Prof. Carlo Von Jack in St. Patrick's Club on the 1 th inst. was very well attended, and the efforts of the performers met with a hearty reception. Prof. Jack's pianoforte solos were encored, as were most of the other items on the programme Altogether, the entertainment passed the evening very pleasantly.

Government bath-houses for coolies were opened in the Wanchai district on the 18th inst. These bath-houses are the practical outcome of suggestions by H. E. the Governor, and should their erection be justified by results—that is, should the coal-coolies and others of the class for whose benefit they have come into existence take appreciable advantage of the opportunity now afforded them—the wash-houses, it is understood, will be replaced by permanent buildings. The present bath-houses are matsheds, large and airy, having inside two rows of shallow wooden baths or tubs for the use of the coolies. By the side of each bath-house has been erected—also temporarily—a shed containing boilers in which water is heated for the coolies. The idea entirely new to the Colony, is a good one, and it only remains now for the coolie to perform his share to make it a success.

The police were on the 19th inst. engaged on Caine Road in a wholesale arrest of beggars—men, women and children, some blind and some lame. This is a step in the right direction, as some of these beggars have been in the habit of worrying people, especially those going to the Roman Catholic Cathedral, for alms. Some of the miserable creatures are so filthy that it would be a blessing to the Colony to get rid of them. There was, however, one thing we noticed which the police authorities ought to be made cognisant of, and that is the inhuman way in which some of the raw-looking Sikh constables treated these poor beggars. There was a man with one leg, walking with a crutch, being led to the station; although he was offering no resistance and going along quietly down Old Bailey, the Indian constable persisted in shoving him along, and occasionally so roughly that the poor fellow was almost falling. There was really no occasion for such treatment, and the constables ought to be taught to temper their zeal with humanity.

The British sloop *Daphne* arrived on the 22nd inst. from Shanghai. The U.S. gunboat *Isla de Luzon* left for Manila.

A Frenchman, who was a prisoner on the last upward mail, escaped from the vessel, and is now at large within the limits of the Colony.

On Saturday the U.S. *Isla de Luzon* arrived from Canton. On the 19th inst. the Italian cruiser *Stromboli* reached this port from Swatow.

On the 17th inst. we learn that Mr. R. M. Mehta, the well-known Parsee broker, was removed to Kennedytown Hospital suffering from plague.

The sentence of death passed by His Lordship the Chief Justice upon Wong Po, the Wanchai murderess, on March 25th last, has now been commuted to penal servitude for life.

It is notified by proclamation in the *Gazette* that the exportation of arms, etc., from the Colony is extended for a further period of six months from the 28th May.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week showed that 430 non-Chinese and 107 Chinese visited the former institution, 142 non-Chinese and 2,529 Chinese the latter.

Mr. E. C. Pontifex was admitted on the solicitors' roll of the Supreme Court yesterday, and the courts subordinate thereto. He was admitted in May, 1899, and is connected with the firm of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master.

Mr. E. A. Irving has been appointed member of and Hon. Sec. to the Board of Examiners; and the Rev. H. R. Wells has been appointed member of the same Board during the absence of the Rev. T. W. Pearce.

It is stated that the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co. has entered into a contract with the Netherlands Indian Government for supplying and laying, on account of that Government, a cable between Java and Borneo. The cable is now being manufactured, and is expected to be laid during the current half year.

At Messrs. Hughes & Hough's Rooms on the 22nd inst. the steamer *Sobraon*, recently stranded at Tung Ying Island, was put up for public auction. The bidding commenced at $2,500, and mounted by degrees to $7,500. No advance on this being offered, the steamer was withdrawn. Lot 2, the portion of the *Sobraon's* cargo remaining on board, and lot 3, a boiler sent from Shanghai for salvage purposes, found no bidders.

The return of deaths in the Colony for April shows a total of 507 deaths, of which 33 were in the European and Foreign community (21 Civil, 11 Army, 1 Navy), and the remainder in the Chinese community. Chest affections claimed 101, and fevers 173, including 36 from malaria, 19 from small-pox, and 115 from plague. The principal rates in the different registration districts were:—British and Foreign community, civil population, 27 per 1,000 per annum; Chinese community, Victoria, land 23.1, harbour, 21.0; Chinese, whole Colony, land 21.3, boat 17.9, land and boat, 20.8; British, Foreign and Chinese community (civil) 21.0.

A billiard match, Police *v.* Navy, took place on the 18th inst. in the billiard-room at the Central Police Station, and resulted in a win for the Police, who made 856 against the Navy's 780. Six couples competed, each couple playing a game of 150 up. A smoking concert was held afterwards, and was greatly enjoyed by all present. Four members of the Welsh Fusiliers' band were present, and they, with the help of other entertainers, contributed largely to one of the most successful social evenings at the Central Station. This kind of entertainment is an entirely new departure with the police, and is very favourably viewed by the higher officials, who are not averse to the holding of monthly promenade concerts in the compound at the Station. A committee of the men has been appointed, and a meeting will be held this week to consider the matter.

Commander W. C. Pakenham took over command of H.M.S. *Daphne* at Shanghai on Wednesday last, in succession to Commander C. W. Winnington-Ingram, brother of the new Bishop of London, who leaves for England on the P. & O. s.s. *Bengal*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Prince Henri d'Orleans, who is on a tour in the east, has been on a short visit to Pnompenh.

The newly appointed Tartar General at Foochow, H. E. Ching Hsing, called on the foreign Consuls there on the 9th inst.

The foreign diplomatic corps at Tokyo has arranged to make a presentation to the Crown Prince in honour of the birth of the heir apparent.

The figures of the foreign population of Kobe, exclusive of Chinese, reach a total of 1,085, an increase of about 40 since the end of 1899. The British residents number 519, the Germans 169, and the Americans 158.

More sentences of imprisonment, etc., have been awarded in connection with the U. S. Commissary scandals in the Philippines. Last week one of the accused got five years, another three, and a third one year and a $1,000 fine.

M. Delcassé has stated that 2,000 French troops have already returned from China, and that the rest of the expeditionary force will return as soon as the remaining clauses of the collective Note of the Powers have been fulfilled.

The *Chingtu*, with the Australian naval contingents from China on board, reached Sydney on the 26th ult. and was ordered into quarantine owing to sickness on board—a case of smallpox. All but the patient were in good health.

It is understood, says a contemporary, that "Dad" Ferrell, the veteran actor of the Dallas Co, has been solicited to write a book entitled *Thirty-five Years of Theatrical Life in the East*, and when he has six months or so to spare he intends to devote some of his amazing energy to this literary effort, and those who know him can entertain no shadow of a doubt but that he will get through it with safety and credit.

A rumour, which has been traced to a Hongkong source, says the *S. F. Press*, is to the effect that the Royal Welsh Fusiliers will come to Singapore towards the close of the year. All that can be said is that that is the expected, and the probable. It may be taken as pretty certain that Mr. Brodrick's policy of marine garrisons for minor coaling-stations has collapsed by this time. That being so, recourse would be had to the usual routine, particularly as indicated in the Army Estimates for 1901-02.

The Chamber of Commerce at Saigon has made a stir about the restrictive laws that hamper Chinese coolie immigration there. Chinese labour is much wanted at that port, yet the local Government seeks to trammel its entrance. The result, it is said, is that the coolie emigrants from Hongkong pass by Saigon and flock to Singapore and Penang, where they have free entrance and have no vexatious and harassing formalities to go through, and no high fees to pay.

At the annual general meeting of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce last week, the Chairman speaking in the subject of Tariff revision said:—I think you will agree with me when I say that such a complicated question as the revision of the Tariff should not be dealt with in this hasty manner, and moreover that it should be taken in hand and settled by those Powers only who have large commercial interests in China, and from their knowledge and experience of trade matters and the general economic condition of China are much more likely to devise a scheme satisfactory and fair to trade than if it were settled by the vote of those whose commercial interests are of the slightest description Indeed if trade had to pay a large part of the indemnity it simply amounts to this, that the Powers whose trade interests are trifling would be getting the indemnities they claim paid at the expense of their neighbours. However, as I said, the matter has been referred home, where I have no doubt it will be carefully and fully discussed and a proper settlement in due time arrived at. You may rest assured that the Committee of the Chamber is quite alive to the present situation, and will do all that lies in its power towards the settlement of the present trade questions on the lines which we merchants and business men generally are all familiar with, and also agreed in considering as absolutely necessary to the true interests of the foreign trade of this country in which we are all engaged.

The *Talbot*, cruiser, Captain F. G. Stopford, has been fitted with wireless telegraphy. Her departure for the China station was consequently delayed for about a fortnight.

The Japanese cruisers *Hashidate* and *Itsukushima*, which have been on a visit to Bangkok, left that port for Hongkong on the 11th inst. They had a great reception at Bangkok.

It is with regret that we have to refer to the death of perhaps the oldest resident of this port, says the *Foochow Echo* in its issue of the 4th instant. Last week we laid to rest Mr. Robert Lowe, a much respected member of the Pagoda Community. He was originally a member of the Imperial Chinese Customs and came to Foochow in 1861 at the opening of the Service. Though, since his retirement, he was resident at Pagoda, he took the warmest interest in all matters of sport and pastime here. His memory will be kept green by his generosity to several of our institutions, to four of which he has left handsome legacies. A bequest to the Race Club takes the form of two cups, to be raced for at two meetings by griffins, locally owned, and if ridden by outsiders to carry a ten pounds penalty. The Native Hospital here and the Cemetery at Pagoda are to receive $2,000 and $1,000 respectively and the Recreation ground one-third share of the proceeds of the sale of his household property.

In the British Court, Bangkok, on the 26th ult., the trial of Mr. Michael Dempsey O'Leary, on a charge of criminal libel, was concluded. The alleged libel appeared in the *Siam Free Press* of the 13th ult., being contained in a leading article headed "Police Robbers and Rowdies." The special jury found the accused guilty, and the judge (Mr. J. Stewart Black) fined him £25 sterling. His Honour said that he did not suppose that the Police were very anxious that the accused should suffer severely for the mistake he had made, and he was ready and willing to believe that the article, though criminal and reprehensible in the highest degree, was inserted in the *Siam Free Press* without due thought and consideration. The Police, however, had rights, and those rights must be respected, but, taking into consideration what he had just stated, that possibly the statement was made carelessly and that possibly the accused had no idea it would injure their rights, his Honour was willing to deal with him as leniently as possible under the circumstances. Accused would also pay the costs of the prosecution with regard to the plea of justification set up by him.

It is evident that Japan now feels the need of foreign capital to carry on the ordinary internal arrangements of the country, and however much they rejected it at first they have at last realised that without the introduction of foreign capital the country would practically be at a standstill. Take the Okayama waterworks as a case in point. The Municipality of that prefecture had decided to raise abroad Yen 640,000 of the Yen 860,000 for which city bonds were to be issued for the construction of the local waterworks. An American capitalist has offered to float the bonds. He provisionally agrees to take them at the price of Yen 95 per Yen 100 face value, with interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, the principal to be redeemed in instalments in forty-seven years, commencing from 1903. But there is another in the field, and that is Mr. Eastlake of Tokyo. He has offered to take up the loan on even better terms, the price being Yen 96, with interest at the rate of 6 per cent. The term of redemption is the same as that specified by the American. Moreover, Mr. Eastlake is said to have offered to sign the contract within 40 days from the 13th inst. and hand over immediately 10 per cent. of the amount of the loan. Mr. Eastlake is also supported by an American capitalist whose name is given in the venacular papers as Mr. Theodore Grose, of Chicago. The Okayama City Office, in view of the better terms offered by Mr. Eastlake, has signed a provisional contract with that gentleman. It is understood that should the Municipality receive a better offer before the end of June they will be at liberty to cancel the American's contract. It is to be hoped the Municipality will not "come to the ground between two stools," states the *Kobe Chronicle*.

Captain Truppel, Imperial German Navy, the new Governor of Kiaochau, and his family, left Genoa for Tsingtao by the German mail steamer on the 30th ult.

Bangkok papers report the death of Mr. R. J. Kirkpatrick, who until recently held the post of Legal Adviser to Siam. Two years ago he was invalided home.

According to a Customs notification published in Shanghai, Amoy has been declared to be infected with plague, and the usual sanitary regulations therefore are put into force for any vessels arriving at Shanghai from Amoy.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 11th May.—Tsatlees.—In New Season's Silk a few contracts have been made, but the prices paid have not transpired. Re-reels.—No fresh settlements are reported, and prices have weakened a little. Filatures.—Only a moderate business has been done during the fortnight under review at somewhat irregular prices. Stocks are reduced and good lots of 6th crop command full prices. The first crop of the New Season is estimated at about 4,500 bales, and is said to be affected in quality by the continued rainfall.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1900-1901 bales.	1899-00 bales.
Shanghai	53,002	67,638
Yokohama	—	—
	53,002	67,638

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1900-1901 bales.	1899-00 bales.
Shanghai	10,047	19,360
Yokohama	—	—
	10,047	19,360

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—The position of the market is the same as when last reported.

Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	$8.87	to	$8.90	pcl.
do. „ 2, White.....	8.00	to	8.05	„
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ...	5.86	to	5.90	„
do. „ 2, Brown ...	5.75	to	5.80	„
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.80	to	8.82	„
do. „ 1, White.....	7.95	to	7.98	„
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ...	5.80	to	5.85	„
do. „ 2, Brown ...	5.75	to	5.80	„
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	13.40	to	13.45	„
Shekloong „	12.80	to	12.85	„

RICE.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—The upward tendency continues, market being brisk.

Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	$2.50	to	2.55
„ Round, Good quality	3.40	to	3.45
„ Long	3.52	to	3.55
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.55	to	2.58
„ Garden, „ No. 1	3.35	to	3.60
„ White.....	3.75	to	3.80
„ Fine Cargo	4.05	to	4.10

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Canton*, sailed on the 16th May. For London opt. Manchester:—80 bales waste silk. For London opt. Goole:—10 bales pierced cocoons, 1 bale waste silk. For London:—2 cases cigars from Manila, 156 bales canes, 625 cases fire crackers, 3 cases curios, 21 cases private effects, 9 cases arms. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk.

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—Market continues very quite, only small parcels of superior description were taken up. Stock, about 8,000 bales.

Bombay, ...	17.00	to	18.00 picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca, ...	18.00	to	19.75 „
Shanghai and Japanese, ...	22.00	to	23.50 „
Tungchow and Ningpo, ...	22.00	to	23.00 „

Sale: 300 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 23rd May.—Since the issue of last report the market has been quiet, and particularly so during the past week, a general disinclination on the part of buyers to continue operations is apparent; but with sellers anxious to ease their holdings, parcels here and there change hands whenever special inducement is offered. Prices have declined 50 cents to a dollar per bale and are weak at the close. Importers are eager sellers, but dealers are acting very cautiously and buying only for immediate wants, as country orders are small and based too low. Stocks held in the interior are said to be light, but on the other hand the quantity of manufactured cloth is heavy, with a poor enquiry from consuming centres.

There is no change to be noted in local Mill quotations, and sales of about 250 bales No. 12s. at $86½ are reported.

Japanese Yarn.—Supplies still keep out and a trifling business in spot goods has been effected on the basis of $109 to $110 for Settsu No. 20s. In addition to the above contracts to the extent of about 500 bales have transpired, say No. 16s. Sakai at $106 and Kanegafuchi at $107; No. 20s., Ashai at $106½, Sakai at $107 and Kanegafuchi at $108½, all four to six weeks' delivery.

Raw Cotton.—The market has been quiet throughout and slightly weaker—Indian descriptions are difficult to move and only about 300 bales best machine-ginned Bengal have found buyers, at from $19 to $19½, leaving a stock of about 7,500 bales on the market which has been greatly relieved of about 3,000 bales recently exported to Japan. With the exception of 50 bales Thoongchow sold at $24, there has been nothing doing in China Cotton Stock but about 400 bales. Quotations are Indian $16 to $21 and China $22 to $24.

Exchange on India closes to-day at Rs. 147½ for T/T and Rs. 147¾ for Post. On Shanghai 72⅛ and on Yokohama 3½ per cent. premium.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the short interval of six days, say from 4th to 10th instant, viz:—

Indian.—Total sales 1,080 bales, comprising 25 bales No. 6s., 75 bales No. 12s., 525 bales No. 10s., 75 bales No. 16s., and 380 bales No. 20s., prices showing a decline of one tael and market closing weak.

Japanese—Are in continued enquiry, the restricted supplies enabling holders to keep prices fairly steady. Total sales about 500 bales on the basis of Tls. 80 to Tls. 81½ for No. 16s., and Tls. 80½ to Tls. 82 for No. 20s., prices showing no change and market closing steady.

Local.—Total sales about 1,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 68 to 72 for No. 10s., and Tls. 77 for No. 16s., prices continuing unsteady and market closing weak.

COALS.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—Market quiet—no change.

Cardiff	$25.00 ex ship nominal
Australian	$13.00 ex godown, nominal
Yubari Lump ...	$11.00 ex godown, nominal
Miiki Lump.....	$10. ex ship
Moji Lump	$7.00 to $9.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double screened	10.50 ex godown } nominal.
Hongay Lump.....	8.50 ex ship } nominal.
Hongay Dust	5.50 „ } nominal.
Briquettes	14.50 „ } nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn:* 1,350 bales No. 10 at $79·50 to $87, 800 bales No. 12 at $82 to $100, 430 bales No. 16 at $93 to $96, 1,600 bales No. 20 at $97·50 to $100. *Grey Shirtings:* 250 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 man at $4·30, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 man $4·30, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 man at $3·80. *Mexicans:* 375 pieces 32 Silver Lion No. 2 at $2·05. *White Irishes:* 250 pieces Gold Horse at $5·05.

METALS.—2,000 bundles d x 6 Nail Rod Iron at $4·48½, 1,000 piculs Bar Iron (round, flat, and square) at $4·48½, 2,000 bundles Steel Wire (round) at $4·90, 840 piculs Lead Antophon at $3·90, 1,680 piculs Lead L.-B. at $3·72½, 40 flasks Quicksilver at $162.50.

COTTON YARN—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s	$75.00 to $108.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24,	114.00 to 120.00
„ 22 to 24,	120.00 to 128.00
„ 28 to 32,	136.00 to 142.00
„ 38 to 42,	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.00 to 2.10
7 lbs.	2.15 to 2.30
8.4 lbs.	2.60 to 3.25
9 to 10 lbs.	3.30 to 4.40
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.30 to 2.50
58 to 60 „	3.00 to 3.75
64 to 66 „	4.00 to 5.30
Fine	5.00 to 7.40
Book-folds	4.00 to 6.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.73 to 1.20
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.60 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 „), „	1.80 to 2.05
6lbs. (32 „), Mexs.	1.80 to 2.00
7lbs. (32 „), „	2.65 to 3.30
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	2.70 to 3.20
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	4.00 to 6.75

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs	1.55	to	5.00
Brocades—Dyed	—	—	—

	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22½ to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in.	0.20 to 0.22½

	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.36 to 2.50

WOOLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 2.50

	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.40 to 10.00
Assorted	6.50 to 10.10
Camlets—Assorted	12.50 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches Assorted	8.00 to 20.00
Orleans—Plain	8.50 to 10.00

	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.00 to 18.00

METALS—

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.45 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.45 to —
Swedish Bar	6.75 to —
Small Round Rod	4.65 to —
Hoop ⅛ to 11/2 in.	5.25 to —
Wire 15/25	8.00 to —
Old Wire Rope	2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	8.50 to —
Australian	8.25 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	41.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	40.50 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	40.25 to —
New Chops 14/20 oz.	— to —
Composition Nails	63.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	42.00 to —
Tin	68.50 to —

	per box.
Tin-Plates	6.90 to —

	per cwt. case
Steel ¼ to ⅛	6.25 to —

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

THURSDAY, 23rd May.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 9/16
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11⅝
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1 11 3/16
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0⅛
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.47
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.51⅛
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.00¼
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47⅞
Credits, 60 days' sight	48⅛
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147½
Bank, on demand	147¾
On CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147½
Bank, on demand	147¾
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72⅞
Private, 30 days' sight	73⅛
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	3½ p.c.pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2 p.c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	118
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	2½ p.c.pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 p.c.pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	59¾
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.07
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	52.25
BAR SILVER per oz.	27½

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 23rd May.—In consequence of the general cessation of business to-morrow in commemoration of the anniversary of the birthday of our late Queen Victoria, our share report is issued a day earlier than customary. During the six days which have intervened since our last report, business has been conducted on a very restricted scale, but rates generally have been well maintained and close steady.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have been sold in small lots at 380 per cent. prem., and 377½ per cent. prem., and close quiet at the former rate. The London rate is £61. 10s. 0d. Nationals are unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are wanted at $340, China Traders at $58, North Chinas at Tls. 180, and Yangtszes at $125. Cantons are on offer at $180.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires are to be had at $360, and China Fires at $87½.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have been sold at $35, $34¾ and $34½, and a few shares may be had at the latter rate. Indo-Chinas have recovered their position, and after sales at $135, $136 and $137 cash, are on offer at the latter rate. China Manilas are to be had at $63 and $53 for the old and new shares respectively. Douglases are obtainable at $53. Star Ferry's are on offer at $24 for the old shares, and $9¾ for the new. Shells and China Mutuals are unchanged.

REFINERIES.—Chin a Sugars have been placed and are wanted at $134. Luzons have sellers at $38.

MINING.—Punjoms have sold at $7.30 to $7.50, and are obtainable at the latter quotation. Charbonnages are wanted at $335. Raubs have recovered as little and are in demand at $21. Olivers have sellers at $1½ and $1¼ for the "A" and "B" shares respectively.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have remained steady during ths period under review, and close at $317½ with a few sellers at the rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharfs have sold at $104 and $105, and close with sellers at the latter rate. Wanchais are wanted at $64, and New Amoy Docks at $22½.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have sold at $196 and $197 cash and are in further demand at the latter rate. West Points are wanted at $56. Humphreys Estates are in the market at $14. Oriente Hotels are obtainable at $80. Hongkong Hotels after sales at $129 and $130 are quiet at the former rate.

COTTON MILLS.—There are no changes to report under this head. Hongkong Cottons can still be placed at $7½.

MISCELLANEOUS. — Green Island Cement shares have dropped to $19¾ with sellers. China Borneos are on offer at $38. Watsons can be obtained at $16½ ex dividend paid this day. Electrics can be purchased at $12¾ and $6¾ for the old and new shares respectively. Ropes are wanted at $157½. China Providents are in demand at $9½, but after sales at this rate there are no further share obtainable. Ices continue in request at $175, and Tramways at $225. Cigar Shares are unchanged.

MEMOS.—At an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Wanchai Warehouse and Storage Co., Limited, held at the office of the General Managers to-day, the sale of the whole of the Company's property for the sum of $300,000 to the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Limited, was approved. The Star Ferry Co., Limited, advertise their third ordinary annual meeting for the 29th instant, the transfer books being closed from the 20th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	$125	377½ p.ct.prm.=[$596.87 L'don, £61. 10s.
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	$27, buyers
B. Shares	£8	$27, buyers
Foun. Shares...	£1	$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	$1.10.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	$10	$20.
China-Borneo Co., Ld.	$15	$38, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ld.	$20	20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	$10	$9¼, sellers
China Sugar	$100	$134, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra, Limited..	$500	$1,500, buyers
La Commercial, Ld..	$500	$1,0 0, buyers
Hensiana, Limited...	$100	$100, buyers
La Favorita, Ld.	$500	$750, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 50, buyers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 40,
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 55.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 325.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 25.
Hongkong	$100	$7¼, buyers
Dairy Farm	$6	$7, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	$25	$55, sellers
Green Island Cement...	$10	$19¾, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	$50	$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	$135, buyers
Hongkong Electric	$10	$12¾, buyers
	$5	$6¾, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	$100	$225, buyers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ld.	$5	$7½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	$50	$120.
Hongkong Ice	$25	$175, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	$50	$105.
Hongkong Rope	$50	$157½, buyers
H. & W. Dock	$50	$317½, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	$50	$180, sellers
China Fire	$20	$87½, sellers
China Traders'	$25	$59, buyers
Hongkong Fire	$50	$360, sellers
North China	£25	Tls. 180, buyers
Straits	$20	nominal.
Union	$50	$340, buyers
Yangtsze	$60	$125.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	$100	$197.
Humphreys Estate...	$10	$14, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	$30	$30.
West Point Building	$50	$56, buyers
Luzon Sugar	$100	$38, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	$320, buyers
Jelebu	$5	$5.20, sellers
Queen's Mines, Ld.	25c.	7 cents, sellers
Olivers Mines, A.	$5	$1½, sellers
Do. B.	$4½	$1½, sellers
Punjom	$9	$7½, sellers
Do. Perference...	$1	$1.25.
Raubs	18	$21, buyers
New Amoy Dock	$6¾	$22½, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	$50	$80, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ld.	$50	$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	$50	$63.
	$40	$53.
China Mutual Pref.	£10	£12.
China Ordinary	£10	£12.
Do.	£5	£7.
Douglas Steamship	$50	$53, sellers
H., Canton and M.	$15	$34½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	$137, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£3, sellers
Star Ferry	$10	$24, sellers
		$9¾, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	$5	$3, sellers
United Asbestos	$4	$11½.
Do.	$10	$20.
Wanchai Warehouse...	$37½	$64, buyers
Watkins, Ld.	$10	$9½, sales
Watson & Co., A. S.	$10	$16½, sells., ex div.
Universal Trading Co., Ld.	$5	$19½, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 15th May (From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report of 15th instant.—The Race Holidays have interfered with general business, though the Indo-China market has been brisk. BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation—Local sales were made at 390 and 385 per cent. prem., the market closing firm, but with sellers at latter figure. Shares for August settlement fetched 400 per cent. prem. INSURANCE.—Fire—Market quiet. SHIPPING.—Indo-China S. N. Co.—Market has been active during week, and closes with firm rates for cash and time. Numerous cash sales are reported at Tls. 100 and 101. The following settlements were made:—June 101, 98.50 and 101; July 102, 104, 101 and 102; August 103, 104, 103; September 104; Oct. 104, 103.50 and 105. Shell Transport Co.'s shares are offering. MINING.—Kaiping Mining shares changed hands in some quantity from Tls. 187.50 to Tls. 200 cash; market closes firm. Settlements were made for 31st inst. at Tls. 192.50 and Tls. 197.50, for June at Tls. 192.50 and Tls. 200, and for July at Tls. 197.50, Tls. 198 and Tls. 202.50. Shares are wanted for July. Raub Mining shares are offering at $24. DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ld.—Market has been quiet, and only a small business has been done during the week. Cash shares are offering at Tls. 302.50 to Tls. 300. Settlements were made for 31st inst. at Tls. 307.50 and Tls. 310, for June at Tls. 315 and July at Tls. 317.50. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares were placed at Tls. 315 for 31st inst. and are offering. LANDS.—Shanghais changed hands at Tls. 125. Humphreys Estate shares are wanted. INDUSTRIAL.—Cotton Mills—Lao-kung-mow's sold at Tls. 50, and Yah-loongs at Tls. 25. Ice shares were placed at Tls. 36, and are offering. Flour Mills changed hands at Tls. 37.50. Green Island Cement shares were sold locally at $21 cash and at $21.25 for July; shares are wanted. TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—Nothing doing. Tugs are in request. MISCELLANEOUS.—Waterworks shares were taken at Tls. 340, and are wanted. Sumatra Tobacco market advanced to Tls. 50 for cash shares, in consequence of good sales of tobacco; market closes firm at this figure. Shanghai Lankat Tobacco Co.—Cash sales are reported up to Tls. 352.50 cash; there are sellers at Tls. 350 to 347.50. June shares were placed at Tls. 355 and September at Tls. 377.50 Hall and Holtz shares sold at $33, and are offering. DEBENTURES.—Waterworks 6 per cent. Debentures were sold at Tls. 103, cum accrued interest.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—*Bengal* (str.), *Ceylon* (str.), *Calchas* (str.), *Dardanes* (str.), *Machaon* (str.), *Inaba Maru* (str.), *Prometheus* (str.).

FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Rhipeus* (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—*Lava* (str.), *Inaba Maru* (str.), *Ceylon* (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—*Preussen* (str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Suevia* (str.), *Segovia* (str.), *Wittenburg* (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Victoria* (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.), *Athenian* (str.).

FOR PORTLAND (OREGON).—*Indravelli* (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—*Nippon Maru* (str.), *China* (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—*Afridi* (str.), *Indrani* (str.), *Arara* (str.), *Glenartney* (str.).

FOR SAN DIEGO.—*Belgian King* (str.).

FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Kasuga Maru* (str.), *Eastern* (str.), *Changsha* (str.).

FOR SINGAPORE AND BOMBAY.—*Melpomene* (str.).

FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—*Hiroshima Maru* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

May—
19, Kutsang, British str., from Samarang.
20, Ville d'Alger, French monitor, from Calais.
20, Natal, French str., from Marseilles.
20, Cheangchew, British str., from Straits.
20, Deuteros, German str., from Bangkok.
20, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
20, Lizard, British gunboat, from Swatow.
21, Chas. Rogier, Belgian str., from Bangkok.
21, India, Austrian str., from Trieste.
21, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
21, Kasuga Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.
21, Wakasa Maru, Japanese str., from London.
21, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.
21, Aristea, Austrian str., from Moji.
21, Rosetta Maru, Jap. str., from Australia.
21, Pekin, British str., from London.
22, Titania, German str., from Singapore.
22, Taksang, British str., from Bangkok.
22, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
22, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
22, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from Y'hama.
22, Yiksang, British str., from Newchwang.
22, Daphne, British sloop, from Shanghai.
22, Michael Jebsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
23, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
23, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
23, Pakhoi, British str., from Wuhu.
23, Arratoon Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
23, Suevia, German str., from Shanghai.
23, Thales, British str., from Haiphong.
23, Loyal, Ger. str., from Pekalongan (Java).
23, Styx, French gunboat, from Canton.
23, Iris, U.S. transport, from Yokohama.
23, Bengal, British str., from Shanghai.

DEPARTURES.

May—
19, Gisela, Austrian str., for Trieste.
19, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
20, Indus, French str., for Europe.
20, Nanchang, British str., for Newchwang.
20, Hinsang, British str., for Hongay.
20, Foochow, British str., for Shanghai.
20, Newark, U.S. flagship, for America.
21, Natal, French str., for Shanghai.
21, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
21, Hong Wan I, British str., for Amoy.
21, Achilles, British str., for Shanghai.
21, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
21, Cheangchew, British str., for Amoy.
21, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
21, Nurnberg, German str., for Yokohama.
21, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
21, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
21, Anping, British str., for Shanghai.
21, Miike Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
21, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
21, Taishun, American str., for Canton.
22, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
22, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
22, Pakshan, British str., for Singapore.
22, Petriana, British str., for Palembang.
22, Goodwin, British str., for Sourabaya.
22, Woosung, British str., for Amoy.
22, Perla, British str., for Manila.
22, Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
22, Bergenhus, Norw. str., for Kutchinotzu.
22, Antonio Macleod, Amr. str., for Iloilo.
22, Daphne, German str., for Nagasaki.
22, Taichiow, German str., for Bangkok.
22, Isla de Luzon, U.S. gunboat, for Manila.
23, India, Austrian str., for Yokohama.
23, Germania, German str., for Amoy.
23, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
23, Aristea, Austrian str., for Moji.
23, Wakasa Maru, Japanese str., for Japan.
23, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
23, Glengyle, British str., for Shanghai.
23, Wingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
23, Onsang, British str., for Sourabaya.
23, Yiksang, British str., for Canton.
23, Pakhoi, British str., for Canton.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Antonio Macleod*, from Iloilo, Mr. and Mrs. Lacsson and family (7), Sergt. Reigna, Messrs. Harry Brown and Matz.

Per *Perla*, from Manila, Mr. Tunhelm, Mrs. Mam, Messrs. Neuman, Neuman, Jr., W. Cleasby, F. H. Hynaman. R. E. Humphreys, W. R. Adams, H. Rider, J. D. Miller, N. Martin, E. Durrant.

Per *Elita Nossack*, from Chinkiang, Mr. Strantzen.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Messrs. A. V. Valencia, J. P. Martin, C. Yamberg, O. Leampo, Miss C. Mollisa and Mrs. Enriqueta de Lopez and six children.

Per *Kutsang*, from Sourabaya, Mr. MacPherson

Per *Natal*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, *via* Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard and two children; from Bombay, Mr. A. Kollbrumer; from Colombo, Messrs. Wandy and Leopold; from Singapore, Mr. A. de Lango and Lieut. Stendley; from Saigon, Mrs. Monny and infant.

Per *Indus*, for Hongkong, from Nagasaki, Mr. Pitault; from Shanghai, Messrs. Rickett, de Philippe, Rice, Meyer, Mengell and Melgram: for Saigon, from Nagasaki, Dr. Tolleyre: for Singapore, from Yokohama, Messrs. Hills and Chase; from Nagasaki, Mr. Rowley; from Shanghai, Mr. R. P. Robert: for Port Said, from Nagasaki, Mr. Schiavuzzi; from Shanghai, Mrs. Carlassare and Mr. Goldman: for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr. de Bocarme; from Nagasaki, Mr. Phsen; from Shanghai, Mr. Perragu, Mr. and Mrs. Chausson and infant, Mr. Briol, Mrs. Weil, Miss Rué, Messrs. Pilven, Gouzy, Wills, H. Trail and Laville.

Per *Wakasa Maru*, from London, Mr. North, Miss Gordon, Master and Miss Hansser and Mrs. Rickets.

Per *Whampoa*, from Shanghai, Messrs. F. Weatherston, F. A. Campbell, P. Neckholds, Dr. D. Parr, Messrs. E. N. Finchli, Sterling and Galasey.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Col. and Mrs. Rice, U.S.A., Messrs. Lyons, McKitrick, Smyth, toku, Capt. Cobban, Messrs. Clarke, F. Toshi-Calho and Muller and Mrs. Toshitoku.

Per *Kasuga Maru*, from Japan, for Hongkong, Mr. W. Walsh, Dr. W. A. Kidd, Mr. and Miss Nomura and Mrs. M. Tashima; for Manila, Messrs. Wm. Simpson, C. G. Campbell, Mrs. M. Cruse and two children, Messrs. R. H. Rycroft, C. Donnery, Mrs H. Ohnishi, and Mr. M. Gomez; for Brisbane, Mr. W. A. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, Miss Barton, Mrs. and Miss Perry, Misses F. and K. Perry, Mr. W. A. Tully, Misses A. and M. Tully, Mrs. and Master Jones; for Sydney, Mrs. and Miss Paul, Mr. A. E. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Frankland and son; for Melbourne, Mr. A. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Spower, Miss Brown, Mr. C. Rebard and Mrs. A. E. Fisher.

Per *Rosetta Maru*, from Australia, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. H. Lindsay and child, Messrs. W. Griffiths, G. Whyte, C. A. Wrightbody, H. Jorvis, Mrs. Arpatler, Mr. and Mrs. Laughorn, Col. Spiebages, Mr. E. E. White, Mr. and Mrs. Lister and Master Lister, Messrs. Moran, H. Richardson, Sheperdson, A. Marchison and T. Kernan; for Kobe, Mr. K. Morita and Miss T. Koyama; for Yokohama, Miss H. Darley, Miss M. Darley, Mr. Wright, Miss Bolydon, Mr. A. Smith, Miss E. Auberson, Mrs. S. Boyce, Mr. Sweet, Mr. and Mrs. T. Arthérton, Messrs. Hikokuro Takayama, S. Goshida, Lieut. McDonnell, Dr. A. E. McDonnell, Lady Gordon, Messrs. Howes, L. M. Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad, Miss Schwabe, Miss K. Numata, Mr. O. Goshimura, Mrs. M. Haruguchi, and Mrs. Kernan and child.

DEPARTED.

Per *Hongkong Maru*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. A. Fitch; for Nagasaki, Mr. L. Mallory and Lieut. J. U. Bell, U.S.N.; for Kobe, Capt. and Mrs. Ainslie; for Yokohama, Mrs. A. W. U. Pope, Capt. and Mrs. Tilley and Miss E. S. Bars; for San Fancisco, Messrs. M. D. Garratt, Louis Basch, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Grant, Mr. S. P. Clark, Miss A. A. Lewis, Messrs. R. G. Bube, Geo. Stevens, J. C. Mill, W. Henderson and James F. Fair; for Portland, Miss H. P. Phillips and Rev. T. W. Barkholder; for London, Mr. J. W. Darwood, Mr and Mrs. C. H. Blake and Dr. J. Macfadyen.

Per *Indus*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Messrs. M. Pursram, M. Hotchand, S. Dhurmdass and H. Isaarashi; for Singapore, Messrs. E. A. Pugh and F. Matz; for Marseilles, Rev. A. A. Pedrosa, Lieut. E. L. de Azevedo, Messrs. F. I. Moraes, V. Camara, A. Camara, P Denielon, J. Munsch, L. Lebail and C. L. Bihan.

Per *Natal*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, The Hon. J. J. Keswick, Messrs. W. A. Evans, F. Fernandes, J. F. Lawson, C. von Jack and Mr. and Mrs. Cobral; for Nagasaki, Mr. H. Cornu; for Kobe, Mr. J. Sujuki.

Per *Perla*, for Manila, Dr. Weber, Mrs. Aenlle and child, Mr. A. Valentine, Mr. and Mrs. Orejas, Mrs. Abad and child, Messrs. J. MacWilliams, F. W. Brooks, J. Komori, Y. Misu, H. S. North, M. Edaral, W. R. Adams, N. Keemaitrai and John Nelson.

Per *Wakasa Maru*, for Japan, Capt. Waymouth, R.A., Mr. H. E. Battlewalla, Mr. and Mrs. Uchida, Miss M. Uchida, Master I. Uchida, Miss S. Mita, Mrs. Playfair, Messrs. Murimura, Murata, Southern, Miss H. Seymour, Mr. J. Banza, Dr. H. Mine, Miss C. Seymour, Messrs. K. Horiguchi, N. Koriki, Miss L. Seymour, Mrs. de Katsumtse, and Mr. K. Mitasaki.

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